



# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## Newtown Indian UMC honors Newtown, Conn., victims

Newton  
Indian United  
Methodist  
Church honors  
Newton,  
Conn., victims

Gary Fife and Sterling Cospers  
MNN Staff

OKMULGEE — Rev. David Dunson coordinated a day-long memorial ceremony Dec. 19 at Newtown Indian United Methodist Church (UMC) in Okmulgee to honor the victims of the Newtown, Conn., shooting Dec. 14, and comfort local community members.

Adam Lanza, 20, shot and killed 27 people in the New England town including his mother, Nancy Lanza, 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School, before taking his own life.

Across the country, similar ceremonies are being held.

“We have come today to pray, not only for the families in Connecticut, but the families in our Nation and around the world, as this has touched each and every one of us,” Dunson said during his opening prayer.



MNN/Sterling Cospers  
Rev. David Dunson of Newtown Indian United Methodist Church delivers a sermon honoring the victims of the Newtown, Conn., shootings.

During the memorial, Dunson and Rev. David Little of Springfield and Thlopthlocco United Methodist Churches reflected on the tragedy and led attendees in song and prayer.

“We felt we needed to have a healing service and have people come together from all denominations and walks of life,” Dunson

said.

He noted the name similarity between his church and Newtown, Conn.

“It was just kind of strange, being the pastor at Newtown church, so we made that connection and [we received] requests from quite a few people from the community about having a service,” Dunson

said.

Dunson remembers he was attending a holiday luncheon at the local elementary school when he heard about the shootings.

“...it just came to mind, ‘what if that happened here?’ It could have easily happened here,” he said.

SEE PRAYER - 3

## New naming rights contract could save money and horse racing

Muscogee (Creek)  
Nation negotiates  
contract from \$1.44  
million to \$144,000

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA — According to a Muscogee Nation News article published Nov. 15, a contract between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) and the Tulsa County Public Fair Board (TCPFB) called for the MCN’s name on the former QuikTrip Center, with the tribe paying \$1.44 million annually for the rights and putting an end to live horse racing at Fair Meadows Racetrack in Tulsa, Okla.

Recent changes have taken that deal off the table in favor of one that would keep live horse racing on the track and lower the proposed payment by the MCN.

The fair board proposed a new contract calling for



MNN/Darren DeLaune

The sign located in front of the former QuikTrip Center at Tulsa’s Expo Square is blank until the naming agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Tulsa County Public Fair Board is approved by the MCN National Council.

\$144,000 annually from the MCN for the right to put its name on the Expo Center. Under the new contract, horse racing would continue for the 2013 season.

The confusion came after Fair Meadows Racing Director Ron Shotts signed agreements with local horse racing associations to continue their seasons, without the

TCPFB being informed about the deal. The original announcement also said the MCN had favored ending the horse racing at the track.

The fair board acted to rescind the original contract Dec. 12.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger disputed the announced terms of the original deal, saying the tribe had not favored ending live racing

and that early media accounts had gotten it wrong.

He said there was a misconception that MCN was the one that called for an end to racing.

“We weren’t,” said Tiger. “Basically, our main interest was the naming rights. The other thing was brought to us and, of course, we would listen and we would be receptive to it because that would mean savings to Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We are going to renegotiate the naming rights at a lesser cost and see where we go from there. I’m pleased for the horsemen’s group. They had an agreement that was signed by Fair Meadows that certainly should have been acknowledged.”

A license agreement for the 2013 racing season was approved by the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission Dec. 17.

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JAN. 1, 2013  
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“RVFO CUSE”  
WINTER’S YOUNGER  
BROTHER



National Council  
holds Dec. 15  
regular session

Sterling Cospers  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — The following is a report of the National Council regular session held Dec. 15 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Mound Building.

TR 12-174 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an exchange letter amendment for the Indian Health Service (IHS) Project OK 11-S28. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

TR 12-175 confirming the nomination of Richard Fixico to serve as the chief of the Lighthorse Administration. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

TR 12-176 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a transfer agreement with the IHS on behalf of the United States of America (USA), MCN, town of Dustin, Okla., and McIntosh County Rural Water District #12, for the provision of satisfactory water supply facilities to Indian families. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

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NEWS STAFF**

MANAGER  
CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE

EDITOR  
REBECCA LANDSBERRY

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
GARY FIFE

REPORTER  
STERLING COSPER

SPORTS WRITER  
DARREN DELAUNE

FEATURE WRITER  
GERALD WOFFORD

CIRCULATION  
WILMA LEWIS

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Citizen thanks tribe for participation in Mvskoke Etlwv

SAPULPA — To Muscogee Nation, I'd like to thank you all for the recent trip to Washington, D.C., and especially David Dunson.

Being an elder and a veteran, he seemed to be two or three places at one time, keeping things in order. I'd also like to thank our driver for doing his job well, with all the traffic and knowing where to go.

It was a memorial trip and pride for the tribe, making me proud of [the] living members.

I also got to meet some good people and distant relatives.

With best regards,  
George Berryhill

# MCN partners with OSBDC for economic development

## Partnership between MCN and Oklahoma Small Business Development Center to aid economic development

**Sterling Cosper**  
*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) has finalized a partnership agreement with the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center (OSBDC) for the OSBDC to provide training services to the MCN for economic development within the Nation.

This agreement places a Northeastern State University OSBDC satellite office within the MCN Administration Building where John Blue, Small Business Development Advisor with the OSBDC, will help the Nation provide business consultation and support to Muscogee (Creek) small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Within the MCN, this program will operate under the Department of Commerce through the leadership of Secretary of the Nation Bill Fife.

"We've got a lot of people interested in business and they've got some experience that they'd like to develop. This will give them an opportunity to do it the right way," Fife said.

A MCN National Council amendment signed Nov. 29 will allocate \$75,000 annually to the OSB-



MNN/Sterling Cosper  
Officials with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) presented a check to the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center (OSBDC) Network per a partnership agreement to provide small business development services to Muscogee (Creek) small business owners and entrepreneurs.

DC Network. A check for the funds was presented to the OSBDC at a meeting in MCN Principal Chief George Tiger's office, Dec. 14.

This funding was required by the partnership agreement between the OSBDC and the MCN to provide small business development services to Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"Eventually we want to provide small business loans, grants and bonding support to small business contractors," Tiger said.

Fife stated that this agreement is the first step in developing the MCN Department of Commerce.

"We've been doing surveys with our citizens to get their input for what they'd like to see us do," he said.

He pointed out that one of the largest problems in the local communities is unemployment.

"We'd really like to get business down in those areas," Fife said.

According to Tiger, the program proposed through the partnership agreement aims to create 500 jobs for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and at least 20 Muscogee (Creek) owned businesses within the Nation annually over the next five years.

According to the partnership agreement, some SBDC resources to be provided include: Google website development, international trade training and advising, profit analysis reports, assistance with business plan development and

seminars on state and federal tax requirements.

Along with a satellite office located at the tribal complex, the program will also attempt to increase accessibility to their resources through online access.

"We've got all of our forms and a uniform commercial code online," Fife said. "Anything they want to know about business, we want to share with them on the Internet."

Fife shared his optimism about the future of this program.

"This is something we've really been getting a lot of positive feedback on. I really think it is going to be a success at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," he said.

# CR&D to further MCN communities' board member training

**Sterling Cosper**  
*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Department of Community Research and Development (CR&D) is gaining several certifications in order to pass along this training to current and future board members of the MCN communities.

According to CR&D Manager Sarai Geary, her department is hoping to improve its training for community board members so that they can better serve and develop MCN communities.

"There are 25 communities who are constantly changing board members so we are trying to get ourselves certified so that we can help train members as they join the boards," Geary said.

Employees of CR&D have already obtained certification in small business development and



MNN/Sterling Cosper  
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Department of Community Research and Development is gaining certification in several different areas in order to pass this training along to MCN community board members.

may begin training board members in this area around next March. The department also plans to gain and certification in board training, grant training and economic development in order to

pass these skills along.

Geary hopes this process will be an improvement on the quarterly training process already required for community board members.

"Right now we are following the

protocol that has always been followed until we get all of this developed and then we can come out with all of our new programs," she said.

These new training programs are being implemented at the request of the MCN communities.

"This is all pretty much community driven; what they're saying and from my observation, what needs to happen," Geary said.

Geary's goal is to inform the greater MCN about these programs while they are in the development process.

"This being in the paper and people talking about this development is laying the ground work for this to happen," she said.

## NAME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But our main interest was the naming rights. All the other things, we had no control over," he said.

Because of the confusion over the issue at the fair board, Tiger felt the tribe should get some consideration in a new agreement, thus reducing the proposed cost of the naming rights.

"Because of something that was beyond our control took place, we felt like we shouldn't be penalized for wanting to continue negotiating naming rights and it should be in a lesser amount," he said.

Tiger stated that the tribe will profit through the name change of the Expo Center to the MCN Center.

"I think the benefit is from the ability to market what we have as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Anytime that you see an event being held at the Expo Center, that's advertising, to some degree, for us. It's going to be mentioned, 'at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Expo Center.' It's a snowball effect for the Creek Nation in terms of giving us a chance to promote who we are," he said.

He explained that it's meant to be part of a more enterprising public exposure campaign for the tribe.

"That's one thing we've never done in the past as aggressively as we're doing now. We have to be able to promote what holding we have so that we can attract industry and the opportunity for job development," Tiger said.

When a new agreement is ready, it will be submitted for approval of the MCN National Council to appropriate funds.



# Tiger gives first-hand account of TU program

**Sterling Cospers**  
*MNN Reporter*

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cynthia Tiger is completing her last semester in the Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law (MJIL) program offered by University of Tulsa (TU) College of Law and Concord Law School of Kaplan University.

According to TU’s website, TU and Concord Law began offering the MJIL, a 30-credit hour online program in August 2011. This co-venture between the universities is available for college graduates whose career or projected career path involves tribal government or businesses and for lawyers seeking to expand their practice or expertise.

A member of the Bird Clan, Tiger works directly with tribes and hopes to utilize her MJIL to further her business, “Tiger 2 Tiger,” which provides grant writing, project management, needs assessment and cost benefit analysis services.

“What I do basically is; I’m a consultant,” she said.

Having completed the majority of her degree requirements, Tiger is working on her master’s thesis involving economic stimulus for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and hopes to go on to law school once she obtains her MJIL.

Tiger says she has been very pleased with the program.

“I like the structure. When you’re a mature adult, you’ve got grown kids, you’re a community member and involved in your culture, you can pretty much do all that and school,” she said.

The online format allowed Tiger to take classes without committing to a set schedule.

“If you can’t make a class, they archive it and you can go and watch it. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night and listen to a lecture,” she said.

She also commented on the as-



MNN/Sterling Cospers  
Cynthia Tiger shared her thoughts and feeling about TU’s MJIL program and Indian Law education.

sistance she received with her course work.

“They even provided us with a tutor,” Tiger said.

Tiger feels that a greater overall understanding of Indian Law is important for Native Americans.

“If we could educate more judges, senators you know; if we could just get an Indian in the Supreme Court with our view point,” she said.

She does, however, feel like there has been some progress.

“With the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous

Peoples and the White House Tribal Nations Conference it seems like there is a lot of things coming together but it has taken a long time to get there,” Tiger said.

Tiger has been on her own personal journey and has already obtained an undergraduate degree in economics and a graduate degree in public health.

“Everything I’m working toward is based on prayers I said. I couldn’t be doing this without help from the creator. It all ties into me wanting to help my people,” she said.

# Nation files federal lawsuit against Poarch Band

**Media Release**  
*MCN Administration Office*

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation filed a federal lawsuit to stop the construction of a casino on its historic ceremonial and burial grounds, known as Hickory Ground, located in Wetumpka, Ala.

Filed on Dec. 12, the suit claims that the Poarch Band of Creek Indians excavated approximately 57 sets of human remains and relocated the burials in April of this year to develop a \$246 million casino on sacred land.

Hickory Ground is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because it was the last capital of the Creek Nation before forced removal to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) and because previously undisturbed Muscogee burials are located there.

The federal complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, asserts that:

- Poarch Band acquired Hickory Ground under the false pretense of preservation.
- Poarch Band promised to protect the archeological remains at Hickory Ground against excavation and received a federal historic preservation grant to acquire the property in 1980.
- Poarch Band violated a preservation covenant by developing a casino on Hickory Ground.

- The lineal descendants of the exhumed ancestors who are known as “Hickory Ground Tribal Town” or Ocevpofov in the Muscogee language never consented to the excavation, and such consent is required by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

- Ceremonial and burial grounds should be protected under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which also requires consultation with traditional religious leaders, the Ocevpofov leaders, in this instance.

- Auburn University contracted with Poarch Band to excavate the remains.

- U.S. Interior Department failed to fulfill statutory and fiduciary duties to protect the burial grounds.

The lawsuit is filed against Poarch Band and its officials, construction contractors Flintco, LLC and Martin Construction, Inc., Auburn University, and the U.S. Department of Interior. The lawsuit seeks preservation of Hickory Ground, and does not seek money damages.

“From the beginning, it has been our stance that the remains should be put back where they were excavated,” said Mekko George Thompson, who has served as a traditional Muscogee Chief of the

Hickory Ground Tribal Town for 42 years.

“The ceremonial ground is sacred, so it is not a proper place for a casino,” Thompson added.

Poarch Band was not federally recognized as a tribe until 1984 and descends from Creek Indians who received a land grant in Tensaw, Alabama, as a reward for assisting the United States to fight against and remove the Creek Nation from Alabama in the 1830s, according to the lawsuit.

The Poarch Band operates three casinos, including the Wind Creek Casino in Atmore, the Creek Casino Montgomery and the Creek Casino Wetumpka, according to its website.

The planned expansion of the Wetumpka casino would include a 20-story hotel with 285 rooms and a 90,000 square foot gaming floor with more than 2,500 electronic gaming devices, according to an announcement reported by the Atmore Advance.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Hickory Ground Tribal Town and Ocevpofov chief Mekko George Thompson are plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

For more information, please contact attorney Brendan Ludwick at (888) 929-9602 or visit [www.SaveHickoryGround.org](http://www.SaveHickoryGround.org).



## PRAYER

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The bell tolled 26 times before and after the memorial and a 26-second moment of silence was held during the service to honor the victims at Sandy Hook Elementary. Those in attendance were encouraged to sign a card to send to Newtown UMC Newtown, Conn., and the Mayor of Newtown, Conn., Michael Nutter. Newtown Indian UMC Church member Janet Juneau expressed her feelings about the church’s efforts.

“I hope that we can reach out to others in this community and to others around us and I hope that the tribe will back us up in reaching out to these kids when there is a problem,” Juneau said.

Little wished to share a similar message with tribal mem-

bers.

“I would say to Creek Nation tribal citizens, ‘listen to your children, love them, because they are a gift that comes from God. Even little children have problems in their lives and we need to focus on their problems and pay attention,’ ” he said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Clinicians Jessica Seachris and Emma De La Cruz attended the ceremony to grieve and provide community support.

“Even though this happened so far away from us, it can affect people in so many ways,” Seachris said.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens seeking support regarding this tragedy or other emotional issues can contact Seachris at 918-224-9301 or De La Cruz at 918-758-1930.



MNN/Sterling Cospers  
Rev. David Little of Springfield and Thlopthlocco United Methodist Church lights a candle in remembrance of the victims of the Newtown, Conn., shootings.

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DECEMBER  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

TR 12-177 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a transfer agreement with the IHS on behalf of the USA, MCN and the town of Dustin, Okla., for the provision of satisfactory water supply facilities to Indian families. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

TR 12-178 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a facility use rental agreement with the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology for the temporary use of Covelle Hall to host the MCN 2013 Johnson O’Malley Career Day. Rep. Pearl Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

TR 12-179 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation and IHS, for the employment of Pamela J. West as commissioned personnel at the MCN Division of Health administrative offices. Rep. Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

TR 12-180 confirming the nomination of Ramona Mason to serve on the College of the Muscogee Nation Board of Regents. Rep. Keeper Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

TR 12-181 supporting the National Johnson O’Malley Program and its National Johnson O’Malley Association membership. Reps. Dode Barnett, Pete Beaver and Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

TR 12-182 authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board (GOAB) to execute a change order to the agreement approved by TR 12-139 (authorizing the GOAB to execute an agreement with Red Stone Construction Services for the renovation of the MCN casino in Duck Creek). Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

TR 12-183 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a lease agreement with Video Gaming Technologies Inc. for the use of tribal trust property located in Tulsa County, Okla. Rep. David Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

TR 12-184 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with McIntosh County for the completion of the Texanna Road Project. Reps. Darrel Proctor and Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-203 authorizing a donation of \$8,000 to the organization Este-cate hokt-vke oyevlke (ECHO). Proctor, Thomas, Randolph and Barnett sponsored the amendment,

which was returned to committee 15-0.

NCA 12-237 repealing MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 6 Chapter 7 entitled: “MCN Paternity Determination Code” and replacing it with a new Chapter 7 entitled: “MCN Paternity Determination Code.” Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-238 repealing MCNCA Title 6 Chapter 6 entitled: “MCN Child Support Enforcement Code” and Title 12 Chapter 6 entitled: “Income Assignment for Child Support” and replacing both with a new Chapter 6 entitled: “MCN Child Support Code.” Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-239 authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$206,410 to the higher education department’s fiscal year 2013 budget to establish a higher education scholarship foundation program. Reps. Kara Medina and Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-240 clarifying appropriations for the Euchee Language Preservation Project. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which was postponed 15-0.

NCA 12-241 authorizing a donation of \$5,000 to Mounds Public Schools. Reps. David Hill and Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Medina voting against it.

NCA 12-243 authorizing a special appropriation of \$427,115 to Bristow Indian Community. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-244 authorizing a donation of \$20,000 to the National Indian Child Welfare Association. Rep. Lena Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-246 authorizing a donation of \$50,000 to the National Johnson O’Malley Association. Reps. Johnnie Greene, Barnett, Beaver, Johnson, Thomas and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-247 authorizing a donation of \$25,497 to the Haskell Foundation for the development of a documentary film on the history of Haskell Indian Nations University. Wind, Randolph and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Rep. Robert Hufft voting against it.

NCA 12-248 clarifying appropriations for the Euchee Language Preservation Project for the period of Jan. 1, 2013 through Mar. 31, 2013. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

Reps. Nichols and Coachman were excused.

# McPeak meets with USDA officials during Tribal Nations Conference



Photo submitted/USDA  
Pictured from right to left are Gerald Lunak; Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak, Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Porter Holder and Mark Wadsworth. McPeak was recently appointment to the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching by Agriculture Secretary Vilsack who met with members of the USDA’s Native American Farming and Ranching Council members Dec. 5 during White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C. While there, Council members were briefed on progress on a new farm bill, as well as agricultural issues specific to Native Americans.

## Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement

### What is This About?

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

**The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.**

### Am I Included?

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
  - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
  - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government’s records as of September 30, 2009.

### Do I Need to File a Claim Form?

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877, postmarked by **March 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

### How Much Money Can I Get?

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

**For a claim form or to update your contact information:**

**Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109  
or Visit: [www.IndianTrust.com](http://www.IndianTrust.com)**



MNN/Rebecca Landsberry  
Richard Fixico was confirmed as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Chief at the National Council regular session held at the MCN Mound Building Auditorium Dec. 15.



# A new year offers resolutions for wellness

Gerald Wofford

MNN Feature Writer

OKMULGEE — As 2013 approaches, many will choose resolutions to better themselves. If the resolutions are to get in better physical condition, Muscogee (Creek) health specialists and others who have decided to walk or jog down a healthier path to a higher quality of life offer a few tips for the new year.

It has been said that it is of utmost importance to secure culture so it may be passed to the next generation but without healthy individuals to secure that passage, culture may be in jeopardy as well.

Some MCN employees have found by making a few better choices, they lay a foundation for living and feeling better. For Anthony Byrd, that choice was being able to volunteer and become a better example to his son.

“I became involved with the Creek Nation Emergency Response Team,” said Byrd. “One of their requirements was to pass a fitness test... The more I involved running and lifting the more I realized how much the food I was eating had an impact on my performance. The most important goal that I had was to spend more time with my son, Alec. Looking back, I can see a positive change in my mental attitude. I can see how what a rut I had allowed myself to get into concerning my physical health,” Byrd said.

Being able to keep up with her four young children was also motivation enough for Christina Good Voice to want to get in the best shape of her life.

“... with my family history of diabetes and high blood pressure I was a health disaster waiting to happen. I was scared to get diabe-

tes and die an early death just because I didn’t take care of myself. I realized that living an unhealthy life would ultimately affect my children because I would be robbing them of their mother just because I was selfish,” Good Voice said.

She began by going to the gym regularly, eating healthier and drinking water.



Mike Cooper (left) of Lightning Mike’s Gym in Tulsa hopes all Creek citizens will consider a healthier 2013. Christina Good Voice (right) of Mvskoke Media considers jogging a great way to stay in shape.

“With little effort, the pounds just melted away and that inspired me to push harder. I lost 35 lbs., that year... I’m proud that I’m a mother of four, yet am in the best shape of my life, therefore prolonging my life and time with my loved ones,” she said.

For Darren DeLaune, it was a major life decision, “Not being in great shape did have a bad outlook on my attitude. I hated it. What made it worse is I went a lot of

years still feeling that way and not wanting to do anything about it... there were a lot of things going on in my life at the time when I made the decision to lose weight. One of the major ones was I could not play with my daughter after a couple of minutes due to being tired and out of shape. I had no energy at all. That was a key turning point for me. I

wanted to run and play with her.”

For DeLaune it was also to begin a lifelong dream of his to become a professional boxer. “I really did not have a goal to meet. I wanted to see how much I could lose and what all I could accomplish in one year. I lost 96 pounds, ran a few 5K runs and had two exhibition boxing matches.”

For many, however, goals for getting in shape don’t include becoming a professional athlete but sim-

ply improving a lifestyle. “I would encourage people to set a series of small achievable goals rather than just one large goal,” said Byrd.

For those young or old, Mike Cooper, MCN citizen and certified fitness instructor, suggests before beginning any type of fitness regimen.

“Get everything checked up on



MNN/Gerald Wofford

before you start,” said Cooper. “After the check-up, the next thing you should do is a food evaluation, look at the foods that you have been eating over the last year and decide if this item has been good or bad for you.”

Cooper strongly suggests food and drinks that contain high doses of sugar be eliminated first. “Cut down on that sugar,” said Cooper, who adds that the carbonation alone from sodas will hinder any

work out and that eliminating extra sugar during the first month of exercising may help citizens’ shear off five pounds or more.

Cooper stresses the first two weeks are important to building flexibility and working the cardio and suggests a light walking regimen to begin with, followed by weight lifting and calisthenics.

Another certified Creek instructor agrees, “Without health and fitness, we will continue to lose our generation to obesity and diabetes,” says Thomas “Thunderkick” Longacre. “The first step is the hardest to start this new life. It will take discipline and sacrifice to get there but with my help and others you can achieve your goals. The time is now to make a change. If not for you then do it for your family. Lets show the world that we are not just a strong but a healthy people and nation,” he said.

Beginning health steps for the New Year:

1. Get a physical from your physician
2. Do food evaluation (eliminate what you feel is making you unhealthy)
3. Get proper shoes with good support and cushion
4. Do proper stretching and make sure muscles are loose
5. First two weeks: begin light workout (walking, jogging, weight lifting or other exercises for 20 minutes every 2-5 days)
6. After two weeks build an endurance for longer sets

For more health tips or questions, contact Mike Cooper at: lightningm21@gmail.com or Thomas Longacre at www.thunderkickfitness.com.

JH

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# EMOPONAYV

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — Native American Heritage Month has come and gone. Did you find ways to celebrate?

Looking at stuff from newspapers around the country, there seemed to be a lot of notice about this ‘almost-a-holiday.’ There were pow-wows, cultural demonstrations and a ‘non-Thanks-giving’ dinner on a college campus.

The majority of the news coverage of these events still seemed to be the “exploration” type of stories. As if Native peoples haven’t been part of many of those communities for two or three centuries now.

Our local second biggest metropolitan daily in Oklahoma does provide better coverage and recently offered this in an editorial:

“There are plenty of good reasons to develop better working relationships with the tribes, not the least of which is the fact they directly employ more than 50,000 people and are responsible for a \$10.8 billion impact in the state’s production of goods and services.” Thank you, *Tulsa World*.

That’s a pretty good piece of information, one that should be useful in giving Oklahomans a more accurate picture of today’s Native America (like it proclaims on the state license plates).

But, unfortunately, you’re still likely to see comments about these stories from Oklahomans whining about a relationship between Indians and governments “...based on race...” or the ever-popular “...they are a conquered people...”

This is usually from someone who proclaims how proud they are about their one-eighth Indian heritage. This is true, I’ve seen ’em and heard ’em myself.

Let’s take a moment to correct the inaccuracies. The basis of our relationship with the U.S. is in law. It’s in the treaties and in the U.S. Constitution. These laws still exist. Look at it this way, there is no Bureau of African-American or Bureau of Asian-American Affairs. Treaties are made between governments, not minority groups. We governed our land. The U.S. government made the deals: treaties (now, they govern most of the land, but that’s beside the point).

But,...there is a Bureau of Indian Affairs. Besides Interior, there are other federal departmental agencies dedicated to Native American people and issues. These offices embody the trust relationship of the federal government to its Native peoples. We’re not just another minority. Even Congress has committees set aside to deal with Native American issues.

That is the basis of our government-to-government relationship. There’s a long string of U.S. presidents who have uttered that phrase.

OK? We can work together.

On to more fun stuff.  
Here’s a headline for you: “Army Establishes Formal Nation-to-Nation Ties With Native American Tribes.” - Army

News Service, Dec. 03, 2012.  
“As Soldiers and all Americans celebrate Native American Heritage Month, the Army has consulted with leaders of federally recognized tribes to provide new policy for Army-tribal relations.”

Too bad they didn’t try this about 300 years ago.  
Perhaps ignoring the obvious historically adversarial relationship between us and the U.S. the Army says it, “will communicate with federally recognized tribes on a government-to-government basis in recognition of their sovereignty.”

In today’s terms, this is very meaningful because the Army has almost 15 million acres of land on which there are a number of Native American heritage sites with archaeological as well as sacred significance.

For instance, Medicine Bluff, located on Fort Sill, Okla. There’s an example for ya! Isn’t that an artillery range? Are there sacred shell craters there?

When they made this announcement, to prove they were sincere, they had, attending and performing, Joanne Shenandoah, Ph.D., an Iroquois vocalist and Grammy Award winner.

I’ll believe they’re sincere when they announce they’re withdrawing all U.S. troops out of North America. That would give us all something to sing about, hey?

With all the fuss over the upcoming Academy Awards (you know, the Oscars) there is some remembrance of 1973 when Marlon Brando declined the best actor Oscar for his role in “The Godfather.”

The lovely Apache woman, Sacheen Littlefeather, appeared on Brando’s behalf to refuse the Oscar for the way Hollywood treated Indians and their images. I remember that prompted some snide remarks about Brando and Littlefeather from the red carpet crowd and its hangers-on. To return the favor, if there is a Native American winner, he/she should refuse the Oscar for the way Hollywood treated Brando. Ay!

Have you noticed all the uproar over female supermodels, rock singers and even an European princess wearing some pretty ridiculous ‘Indian-inspired’ outfits? (Was your great-great grandmother an English princess?) This is after the Urban Outfitters company got busted by the Navajo Nation for putting ‘Navajo’ on the hideous junk they tried to sell to their hipster customers.

Come on, people, have you learned nothing?

Perhaps this quote from Will Rogers might be appropriate here:

“There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.”

Hvtvm  
cehecares  
— I will see you again.



# Book review: Muscogee poet shares reflections in new book

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Feature Writer

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Chrissy Lewis (through Outskirts Press) published an inspirational and religious book of poetry, “Shedding the Light Through Rhyme.”

Lewis, a singer, dancer and actress, has appeared in films, “The Fergusons” and “Jesus Fish” and has previously published poetry but this is her first compilation.

Lewis, of Okmulgee, shared personal reflections in the foreword of the book. She mentions sober events that occurred in her life such as abusive relationships, lost family members, friendships, loves and having to leave a place of security because of relocating.

Lewis separates the book into sections and writes about issues such as anger and fear, love and heartbreak, friendship and advice. Lewis is not conservative sharing how these events helped form her life and prepared her for handling issues and celebrating triumphs. Her written work is based on a foundation of a creator and her reliance on him but does not eliminate the poet’s challenge to find herself and the answers she needs to help others in her life and be there for them. Lewis shares poems of joy, and happiness and some that simply reflect having fun and being silly.



MNN/Gerald Wofford

Muscogee (Creek) poet Chrissy Lewis authored “Shedding the Light Through Rhyme,” a compilation of works she has done over a number of years.

One excerpt from a selection titled, ‘Guide and Follow’ reflects on how the Lewis deals with the changes in her own life:

*“Change is good ‘cause it helps us grow*

*It’s designed to guide and let you know*

*The right path for you to follow*

*Opportunity knocks - you have to go*

*Soul friends come right out of the blue*

*They’re always there when you need them, too*

*They help you with what you’re going through*

*And you know they’ll always be there for you”*

Lewis says she was encouraged to pursue poetry through her mother

and an English teacher’s encouragement, as well as winning a school poetry contest.

Although Lewis says her poetry illuminates the difficulty and struggles in life, she wants readers to remember there is always a positive outcome if one is willing to look for it. “It’s gonna get better,” said Lewis, “I always want to write poetry like that, work that does not cause negativity, to make the world better. If I can do anything to make it better, that’s my purpose.”

“Shedding the Light Through Rhyme” by Chrissy Lewis is available through Outskirts Press and can be purchased at: [www.outskirtspress.com/sheddingthelight-throughrhyme](http://www.outskirtspress.com/sheddingthelight-throughrhyme).

# Mvskoke Media’s movie review: “Lincoln”

## Historical American film receives four and a half frybreads

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — History buffs will enjoy the recently released movie about the 16th president of the United States, Lincoln. This monumental production, which some critics are already calling a masterpiece, certainly deserves that distinction and will probably go down as one of the most remarkably made historical movies of all time.

One argument for this is the performance by Daniel Day-Lewis in the lead role.

Lewis has taken unique parts, one important movie that had a Native American connection was the 1992 film ‘Last of the Mohicans.’ It’s hard to believe that it has been 20 years since its release, in that movie, Lewis played the tough, skillful Hawkeye. Other movies have seen him play similar roles like Bill the Butcher in “Gangs of New York”, which adds more credibility that needs to given to this actor of Irish and English ancestry taking on the task of portraying one of the most important figures in U. S. history, Day-Lewis spent many months in Lincoln’s hometown of Springfield, Ill., and stayed

in constant character to get the full essence of ‘Honest Abe.’

Veteran actress Sally Field portrays Mary Todd Lincoln as the psychotic, highly-strung First Lady who gives the leader of the country an extra personal burden to deal with in addition to leading with a fledgling country struggling to find its identity. Tommy Lee Jones also gives a stellar performance as Congressman Thaddeus Stevens who has his own views and motivations for wanting racial equality.

The movie keys on the last four months of Lincoln’s presidency before his untimely demise near the end of the Civil War when Lincoln had just begun his second term. There is still one important issue that the country must face and Lincoln knows that if the country doesn’t deal with it, the last four years of fighting have been in vain. The emancipation proclamation, become official by a congressional vote, the movie is insightful and shows Washington politics being played, even over a 100 years ago and how compromise is essential for a country to progress, a lesson that may be needed today.

The turbulent wartime era of the Lincoln presidency is not lost as the epic captures a dramatic Civil War battle at the beginning of the movie, in which Director Steven Spielberg can be given credit, much like his portrayal of the World War II invasion of Normandy Beach by U.S.

troops in his 1998 movie ‘Saving Private Ryan.’

If there’s maybe one drawback to this movie, from a Native American perspective, its that there is no Native American perspective with the country reeling and racial philosophy being determined, it would have been interesting to have even seen a minimal portion on what Indian tribes were also facing at this dangerous time and their own pilgrimages. To Spielberg’s credit a Native actor portraying Ely Parker, the Seneca lieutenant colonial who was a member of general Ulysses Grant’s staff and wrote the terms of surrender at Appomattox, is in the background of certain scenes.

None the less Lincoln is a must see, reminding everyone how difficult this country came about, the dues it paid, and the distance it still has to go.

So out of a possible five frybreads, we’re giving “Lincoln” four and a half.



“Lincoln” is rated PG-13 (parents strongly cautioned) for violence and strong language.

For the listing of this and other films at Riverwalk Movies or the Admiral Twin Drive-In, visit the website at [www.select-cinemas.com](http://www.select-cinemas.com).

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR DECEMBER 2012

## HOMEMADE PIES AVAILABLE FOR HOLIDAYS

OKEMAH — Mvskoke elder Carol Tiger is selling a variety of homemade pies for the holidays.

All pies except pecan are \$7 a piece including order and delivery. Pecan Pies are \$9 and cobblers are \$10.

For more information call Tiger at 918-716-8267.

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

OKMULGEE — Applications for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are now being accepted through March 31.

The MCN SYEP is a summer work experience and life skills development opportunity for youth, ages 16-21.

Through the application process, youth will learn how to search and apply for employment. The actual employment experience will provide opportunity to learn employability skills and focus on setting and obtaining future career goals.

Eligibility is as follows:

- Native American youth including all federally recognized tribes
- Ages 16-21; must be 16 by May 31 and cannot turn 22 before July 27
- Must reside and work within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries
- All non-Creeks must meet federal income guidelines
- Must submit complete application and required documenta-

tion prior to the deadline

- Must attend orientation

To apply, youth may call or email the Youth Works program to have an application mailed to them. Applications are also available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/SummerYouth2013>

For more information, contact the MCN Employment & Training Administration Youth Works Program at 918-732-7777 or 800-482-1979 ext. 7777.

## MVSKOKE LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM TO HOST COMMUNITY MEETINGS STARTING JAN. 8

WETUMKA — The Mvskoke Language Revitalization Program will host community meetings beginning Jan. 8, 2013 from 6-7 p.m., at the MCN Southern Regional Office located at 333 S. Washita in Wetumka, Okla.

A second meeting will be held Jan. 15, 2013 from 6-7 p.m., at the Glenpool Indian Community Center located at 13839 S. Casper, Glenpool, Okla.

## MVSKOKE LANGUAGE CLASSES TO START JAN. 14 IN WELEETKA

WELEETKA — Mvskoke language classes will be offered at the Weleetka Indian Community Center beginning Jan. 14-15 from 6-8 p.m. Classes are free and open to the community.

For more information, please call 918-732-7724.

## GLENPOOL NASA TO HOST ANNUAL STOMP DANCE JAN. 26

GLENPOOL — The Native

American Student Association will host the annual Glenpool NASA Stompdance Jan. 26 from 7-12 midnight at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center, located at Hwy 75 and 141st St., in Glenpool.

The event will feature raffles, concessions and a cakewalk. Arts and crafts space is available and booth space is free with raffle item donation.

For more information, contact Glenpool Public Schools Indian Education Office at 918-322-9500 ext. 560 or 568.

## CMN AND MCN TO HOST 'COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY' FEB. 10

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment & Training Administration and Higher Education will host College Goal Sunday Feb. 10, 2013 from 2- 4 p.m. The registration deadline to attend is Jan. 25.

High school seniors, other adults and their families can receive assistance in applying for financial aid for college or technical school, obtain information about services offered by the MCN, meet with representatives from local schools and win prizes.

## MCN TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

OKMULGEE — The Tribal Driveways Program is accepting applications for repair of accessible driveways for property owners who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Ap-

plicant must be enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe.

Organization applications are also available for MCN ceremonial grounds, tribal towns, community centers, churches and when

needed, family cemeteries that are within the MCN boundaries.

For more information or to request an application call 918-732-7651 or 1-800-482-1979.

## The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program helps Native Americans become first time homeowners by providing financial assistance for acquiring a home mortgage.

To pre-qualify for the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements.

- Preference will be given to Creek Citizens.
- Be a first time home buyer or not have owned a home within five years of application.
- Live within the State of Oklahoma.
- Must not be an existing or former Mutual Help participant or NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with Option to Purchase regardless of Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income as published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, which includes Citizenship cards for preference purposes, Social Security cards and employment verification for each working family member.
- Sign all required forms including the Consent for Disclosure of Information.
- Meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.

FOR A PRE-APPLICATION CONTACT LADONNA NORTHCROSS AT 918-549-2554 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov)

The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance program Pre-Approval does not guarantee a Mortgage Loan from an Outside Lender.



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# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## “Idle No More” rally held at MCN complex

International movement gains local support

**Sterling Cosper, MNN Reporter**  
**Gary Fife, MNN Editorial Assistant**  
OKMULGEE — A rally in support of the “Idle No More” (INM) movement was held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) War Memorial on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla., Jan. 9.

The “Friends of the First Nations INM Support Rally,” was held in participation with the greater INM movement, which began in November 2012 in response to the Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s refusal to meet with the First Nations people about provisions in Bill C45 affecting Canada’s indigenous people.  
(View a summary of C45 and the debate over the bill online at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2013/01/04/f-idlenomore-faq.html>.)  
The movement aims to promote indigenous rights and has garnered worldwide support and participation.



MNN/Sterling Cosper  
Pictured are demonstrators at the “Friends of the First Nations Idle No More Support Rally” held on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex Jan. 9.

Citizens from tribal nations across the state attended the event, which featured speeches in support of INM, Muscogee (Creek) hymns, traditional songs and Muscogee (Creek) and Cherokee round-dances.  
Pat Noah, citizen of the Delaware First Nations Moravian of the Thames (Moravian Town) of

Ontario, Canada was also in attendance. Noah, a current resident of Tulsa, Okla., gave her perspective of the movement.  
“As the Mohawks say, ‘you can’t see the future with tears in your eyes.’ We have to move forward. A lot of you are descendants of the Trail of Tears. We don’t need that again for our children. Our chil-

dren need to have resources; they need to have their land back; they need to keep their land,” she said.  
Edwin Marshall, MCN Public Relations Manager and Cherrah Giles, Secretary of MCN Community and Human Services, helped organize the event.

SEE IDLE - 2

## Mvskoke language first on tribal court docket

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court opens judicial session Jan. 4

**Gary Fife**  
**MNN Editorial Assistant**  
OKMULGEE — A new year for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) District Court has begun.  
Before hearing any Latin words for legal activities, motions or documents, the first order of business was to hear dedications and prayers in the Mvskoke and Yuchi languages.  
Greg Bigler is Administrative Judge for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. He made the addition of tribal languages to the opening day of the opening session of the Muscogee court, Jan. 4.



MNN/Gary Fife  
Bobby Yargee (right), mekko of the Alabama-Quassarte Ceremonial Ground, delivers a prayer and dedication for the opening docket of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Jan. 4. Also pictured is MCN Administrative Judge Greg Bigler (left).

He emphasized the importance of making distinctions between the MCN tribal court and courts in other jurisdictions, “I think it’s important, both for the court itself

and for those who appear before, and the public to remember that every day that we have court we go through things. We follow our civil procedures, our criminal codes,

the statutes and laws of the nation...and you can go day to day without realizing the difference between us and the federal courts, the state courts. Still yet, we’re a tribal court, we have a history and we have a culture that’s unique. I think it’s important to remember that and be reminded of that fact. The language and the culture is probably the best way to remind us of that and to continue on and give recognition of that fact.”  
Robert Yargee, is mekko at the Alabama-Quassarte Ceremonial Ground and works with the maintenance staff for the National Council. He offered the Mvskoke portion of the native dedication for the court. He said he was glad to help out and it was important to keep Native identity a part of courts established by tribes and for tribes,

SEE COURT - 2



JAN. 15, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 2  
“RVFO CUSE”  
WINTER’S YOUNGER BROTHER



## Lighthorse contends with tight ammo market

**Media Release**  
*Mvskoke Media*  
OKMULGEE — The national frenzy of gun and ammo purchases by private citizens has had an effect in Creek country.  
News reports have detailed a rush of sales to private owners who bought items at a rate that has cleared some gun dealers’ shelves of the most popular weapons and calibers of bullets.  
Because of the massive sales, Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Lighthorse Chief of Police Richard Fixico said he had concern about that and another related issue.  
His department is having some difficulty in obtaining ammunition for their service pistols and assault rifles for training and emergencies, “It’s always some issues with law enforcement when you deal with people with high powered type weapons or even mass ammo. That issue has affected our department in obtaining ammo for our department and its training usage.”

SEE GUNS - 4





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**Mvskoke Radio  
to feature Tiger  
Jan. 16**

Media Release  
Mvskoke Media

OKMULGEE — Local listeners may tune in to Mvskoke Radio, broadcast Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL AM 1240 in Okmulgee, Okla., for news interviews and events every week.

This month’s hour-long program Jan. 16 will feature Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger discussing his first year in office.

Call-in questions and comments from the listening audience are encouraged. Listeners may call 918-756-3646 to participate.

Gary Fife and Gerald Wofford host Mvskoke Radio every Wednesday morning. An archive of the program can be accessed on the MCN website at: [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov).

**IDLE**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We wanted to give our people an opportunity to stand and support what is going on in Canada as well as our own rights,” Marshall said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger shared a similar sentiment.

“I believe that it’s time that we stand up for what we believe in. There might be a border between us and Canada but the fact remains, we are all related in some way,” Tiger said.

INM events have been held across the country including a flash-mob, round-dance demonstration at Tulsa Promenade Mall in Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 27 and a similar event at FlatIron Crossing Shopping Center in Broomfield, Colo., Jan. 3, which resulted in five arrests.

“I think it is indigenous people saying, ‘We are here; we are a government and we need to be heard,’ ” Cherrah Giles said.

Justin Giles, Assistant Director of the MCN Museum and Cultural Center, views the movement as a resurgence.

“Knowing the AIM [American Indian Movement] movement that was happening in the 70s and the civil rights movement that was happening in the 60s, I see this as the same type of movement happening here,” he said.



MNN/Sterling Cosp

Pictured above are participants of the “Idle No More” event held on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla., Jan. 9.

Marshall tied the significance of INM back even further.

“In the 1800s, when we were promised Indian Territory...our treaties were violated and the state of Oklahoma was formed. Since then, there have been many encroachments on treaty rights,” Marshall said.

The spontaneity and organization of the INM movement has been affected by various digital communication mediums. Justin Giles pointed out the difference modern technology has made in this particular movement.

“This is a prime example of how social media, emails and text messaging gets things moving,” he said.

Noah plans to share what she

witnessed at the rally with her people in Canada.

“I will tell them that we have people in Oklahoma willing to take a stand and willing to stick their neck out,” Noah said.

Cherrah Giles shared how she believes the INM movement can advance.

“People need to educate themselves and look up what the ‘Idle No More’ movement was founded upon; take it seriously and come together so we can have stronger governments,” she said.

Visit the official INM Web page: <http://idlenomore.ca/>

For social networking regarding INM visit: <https://www.facebook.com/IdleNoMoreCommunity>

**Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013  
In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement**

**What is This About?**

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

**The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.**

**Am I Included?**

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
  - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
  - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government’s records as of September 30, 2009.

**Do I Need to File a Claim Form?**

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

**How Much Money Can I Get?**

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

**For a claim form or to update your contact information:  
Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109  
or Visit: [www.IndianTrust.com](http://www.IndianTrust.com)**

**LETTER TO  
THE EDITOR**

**Citizen thanks community for holiday donations**

WETUMKA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Wetumka Head Start recently received some Christmas donations. The Holdenville Creek Nation Casino Manager Roger Birdcreek had a month-long Toy for Tots drive.

Customers brought in a toy for game play so the casino partnered with the head start to provide our 17 children with toys for them to open for Christmas.

The head start services low-income children and we are blessed to have community partners such as the casino.

We also have a grandmother, Joyce Noon, who donated 17 knitted hats for the children and one of the staff members.

We would like to thank the Holdenville CN Casino, Roger Birdcreek and Joyce Noon for their donations. Joyce has a grandson in the head start.

– Janice Birdcreek, Center Supervisor for the MCN Wetumka Head Start

**COURT**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The Muscogee people had a court system to better our people, so that we wouldn’t have to go to a white court. For the Indian people to continue to survive, we have to have our language. Once our language dies, we will be Indian no more.”

From time to time, Yarg-ee has also been called on to serve as an interpreter for citizens who communicate primarily in Mvskoke.

Yonne Spencer of the Polecat Ceremonial Ground, said the Yuchi people have been united with the Muscogee people for decades but their language has some differences from Mvskoke. He felt the language represented Native culture, “It says, we’re still Indian, we have our tribal ways. The language says we’re still here.”

The Mvskoke language, Bigler said, is being considered for use in opening every court session. However, for its everyday business, he added, it is not used much because most people who come through the court don’t speak or use the language. “I think it’s very small at this point. I’d like to see it increased. I think that it’s important to see where we can fit that in.”

The challenge he noted is that few under 40 years old are fluent and the majority of citizens under 20 years old don’t utilize any Mvskoke language.

Finding a practical usage may be difficult to determine but he said they will keep trying. “It’s a matter of finding a way we can work it in and figure out how we can make it important, a vital part of our day-to-day life.”



# Creek Warrior reflects on boxing career

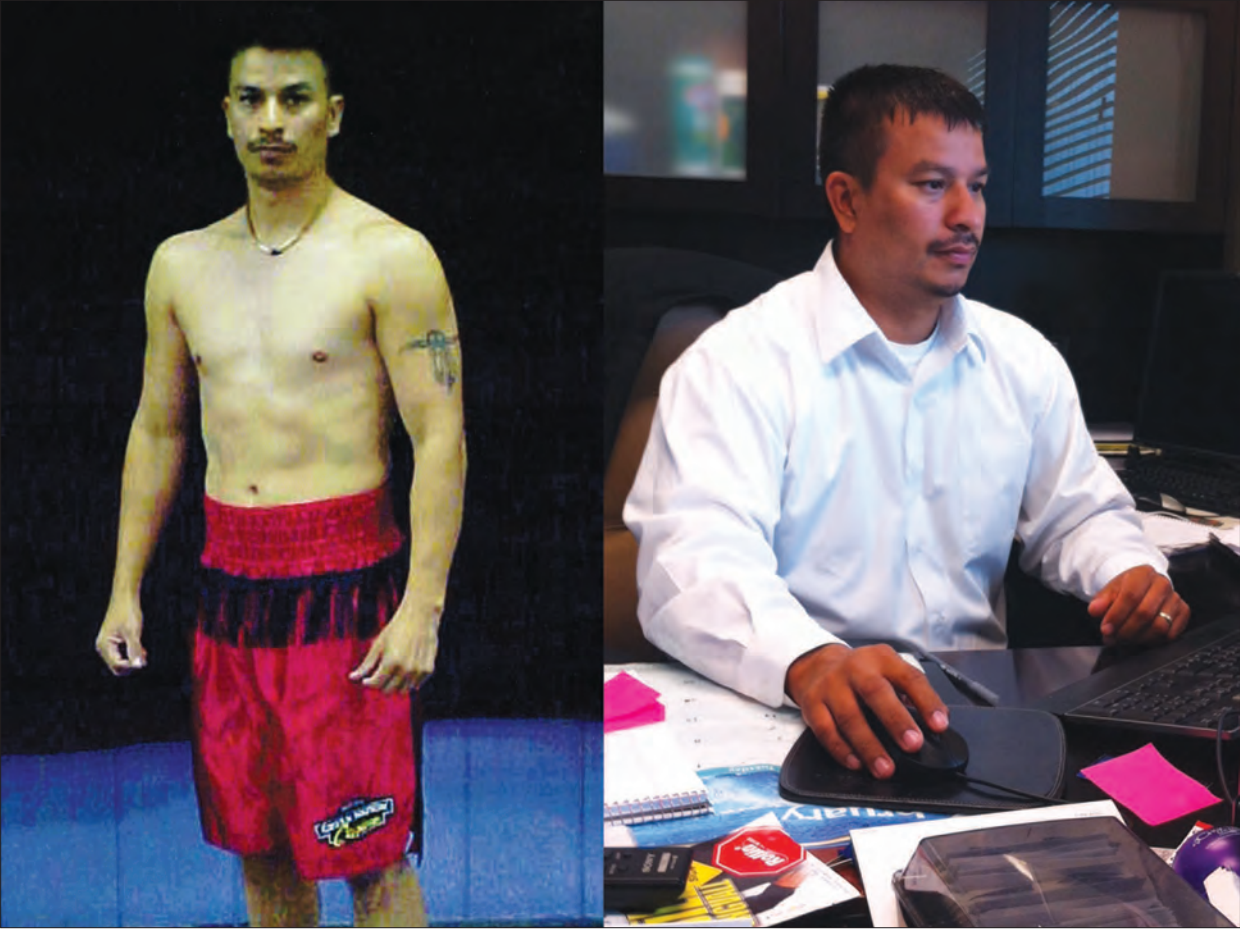


Photo submitted/B.J. Waggnor  
Muscogee (Creek) citizen B.J. Waggnor, the “Creek Warrior,” is pictured at left during his time as a professional boxer. Today, Waggnor serves as the director of operations for the MCN Office of Public Gaming.

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Sports Writer*

TULSA — After discovering his sister’s collection of trophies when he was a boy, Muscogee (Creek) citizen B.J. Waggnor was intrigued. “When I was young, near the age of seven,” said Waggnor, “My sister had a bunch of trophies from every sport that she played in. Basketball, softball - whatever sport she was involved in - she always had a trophy. I was too young to play any sports at that time.”

Waggnor’s uncle, Butch Wolfe, boxed during the time and Waggnor was amazed at the trophies he brought home.

“My uncle explained to me... win or lose, no matter what, you get a trophy,” he said.

The “Creek Warrior” started prizefighting shortly thereafter with some encouragement from his father.

“My third year and for the rest of my career, is when my dad took over training for me,” Waggnor said. “He learned the game quicker than I did, outside of the ring, than I did inside. That is what makes us such a good team. To this day, if there is something changed in boxing, he will know about it,” Waggnor said.

Waggnor explained what drew him to the sport and what intrigued him about it.

“It is one-on-one combat,” said Waggnor. “It helped me to get co-ordinated to be successful at other sports but for this sport, it is only you. I won or I lost. I didn’t depend on anybody. It was myself. If I had a bad night it was because of me. It wasn’t because my teammate threw an interception or we missed a last second shot. If I lost, I had no one

to blame but myself. There are no excuses in boxing.”

During his amateur career, Waggnor amassed over 600 wins as an amateur to 19 losses.

“After all those wins, I still remember my first win,” said Waggnor. “It was in 1979, in Copan. I still have that trophy. It is my most valuable thing I have in my house. Another thing I remember from my amateur fights, is after my first loss, I never lost again for the next two years.”

Every boxer knows in order to be great, they must devote hours in the gym. Waggnor was no different, especially growing up.

“A typical training day for me, in my prime was run five miles. After that, I went to school... I had to get my homework done then I would go to the gym...for three to four hours. My dad opened the gym, so we were always the first ones there and the last ones to leave. My dad did not believe in hanging out. I worked out harder than anybody around here when I was going to school,” Waggnor remembered.

After boxing for close to 11 years, Waggnor experienced a burnout from the sport.

“I had been fighting since I was seven until I was 18. I told some people, other than my parents, that when I was old enough to make a decision, I was going to quit,” he said.

Waggnor took a hiatus from the sport but there was still something urging him to get back in the ring when he decided to take the sport to the professional level at the age of 19.

His pro record is nine wins and zero defeats. Of those nine, he won six by knockout. In the latter part of

his career, Waggnor worked a full-time job and trained for two to three hours a day to prepare for his fights.

“Passion is what brought me back,” said Waggnor. “When you do something for so long, you develop a passion for it. And boxing is my passion.”

After his pro career wrapped up in 2009, Waggnor refocused his talents in a new arena: training.

“I became a trainer by default,” laughed Waggnor. “When I started working with you [Darren DeLaune], gladly, is when I became a trainer. I really do not consider myself a trainer. It is something I always thought about doing. I like trying to show the things that I know and learned. It is a passion for me and I see the passion that you have for boxing.”

Waggnor has an answer to fans’ questions of him re-entering the ring in the future.

“As much as I would love to, the answer is no. The mind says, ‘I can do it,’ then the body says, ‘I can’t.’ I know I can go in there and beat a lot of the fighters around here. Dealing with injuries now, they do take a lot longer to heal,” said Waggnor.

Waggnor offered some final thoughts on the pugilistic sport.

“If you want to get into the best shape possible,” Waggnor said, “There is no other sport than boxing. If you do not want to fight and just stay healthy, boxing is the sport to do it.”

Waggnor resides in Henryetta, Okla., with his wife Melany and children: Nate, Takoma, Mikayla, A.J., and Tre.

## Muscogee (Creek) citizen named most promising minority student

**Sterling Cospier**  
*MNN Reporter*

NORMAN — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Chelcie Hunt was awarded the American Advertising Federation’s (AAF) Most Promising Minority Student (MPMS) award.

For winning the MPMS, Hunt and one other student were awarded a trip to New York City this February to meet with advertising agency representatives and enjoy the city.

“They are actually able to contact us before the award to set up interviews,” Hunt said.

A senior at the University of Oklahoma (OU) Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Hunt has been proactive not only in her coursework but in advancing the college’s career preparatory services as well.

“I’m actually heading a new digital department that will be able to offer PR, ad and digital [services],” Hunt said.

The department is a student-run agency through Gaylord that serves real clients and generates revenue in order to give students real world experience.

Hunt, along with a colleague, have updated the agency in line with an industry trend that provides digital services, including social media and web development, along with public relations and advertising services.

Although Hunt majors in public relations, it was her participation in the advertising club at Gaylord, which qualified her to apply for the MPMS.

“My focus is really in all areas. I believe that in the field I’m in; advertising, marketing and public relations are all integrated together,” she said.

Ever proactive, Hunt has al-

ready done research about her AAF-sponsored trip in February.

“I’ve contacted one of the people that won the award last year at OU and she said that she credits being in New York to winning that award and being able to network with those different advertisers,” she said.

She has not made up her mind about where she would like to end up however.

“I’m keeping my eyes open until I go to the MPMS awards and meet with all the different advertising and digital agency people,” Hunt said.

Born and raised in Davis, Okla., Hunt credits her grandmother for connecting her to her Muscogee (Creek) heritage.

“The rest of her family lives out in California. They moved there during the Great Depression,” she said.

She also credits her grandmother for telling her about the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Bureau of Indian Affairs scholarships.

“Those scholarships and grants have helped me out tremendously,” Hunt said.

Hunt will return to OU for the spring semester as a senior and plans to graduate in May with her bachelor’s in Journalism.

She shared her secret for success.

“I think just have a starting point and have a goal in mind and do whatever you can to reach it. If you have a setback, don’t get discouraged. You may not take the path that you wanted originally but they all lead to where you want to go in the end,” Hunt said.



Photo submitted/courtesy of Chelcie Hunt  
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Chelcie Hunt was awarded the American Advertising Federation’s Most Promising Minority Student award.

## B.J. Waggnor: ‘Creek Warrior’ profile

**Age:** 40  
**Boxing Style:** Boxer-Puncher  
**Favorite Combination:** Left hook – right hand  
**Favorite Food:** Italian  
**Favorite Drink:** Mountain Dew  
**Occupation:** Director of Operations (OPG)

**Hobbies:** Watching my kids play sports. Nothing better than watching my kids play.

**Most memorable fight:** I fought in the amateurs against ‘Poison’ Junior Jones. I was in the best shape and in the prime of my fighting. I beat him pretty easily.

**Toughest fight:** In the regional finals. Not sure of what year. I remember his first name was Rocky. In this fight I broke my right

thumb, my nose, and cut my eye. It was a battle for the whole fight. I won the decision in his hometown. He was from St. Louis.

**How he got the name, ‘Creek Warrior’:** Very proud of my heritage. When I was an up and coming fighter. They [the Muscogee (Creek) Nation] financially helped me to be able to go to a training camp.

My tribe helping me to be able to go this camp really made me proud to be Creek. You do not think about your heritage at all. Especially when you are young. So when I fought, I fought for the Creek Nation. So I took on the name the ‘Creek Warrior.’

I am a proud tribal member when I step in the ring. I step in as the ‘Creek Warrior.’



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# Muscogee (Creek) citizen heads new TU law program



Photo submitted/Shonday Harmon

Pictured is Shonday Harmon, Program Director of the Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law program offered by the University of Tulsa and Concord Law School of Kaplan University.

**Sterling Cospers**  
*MNN Reporter*

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Shonday Harmon is the program director of the new Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law (MJIL) program offered University of Tulsa (TU) College of Law and Concord Law School of Kaplan University.

The MJIL program, which began in August 2011, is offered exclusively by TU and Concord Law and is a 30-credit-hour full or part-time online program available for college graduates whose career or projected career path involves tribal government or businesses and lawyers seeking to expand their practice or expertise.

“This May we are going to have our first graduating class,” Harmon said.

Harmon’s position operates under TU, which handles the academic curriculum for the program while Concord Law manages the online format’s technical aspects.

She explained why the program was developed.

“They [TU] received numerous phone calls from people that didn’t necessarily pursue a J.D. degree and go on for a bar exam and practice law but felt they needed more insight into [issues like] property rights, mineral rights, taxation, compacting and tribal gaming,” Harmon said.

Currently working for her doctorate in education at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and a former financial aid director for OSU and Tulsa Community College, Harmon heard that TU was looking for a director for their MJIL program through the academic network.

“I felt very fortunate that I was in the right place at the right time,” she said.

Harmon has already obtained her master’s degree in education from OSU and bachelor’s degree in marketing from Northeastern State University.

“I really enjoy the university atmosphere; I enjoy college kids. I’m a firm believer in life long learning,” she said.

She grew up in Broken Arrow, Okla., and is a member of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community. Her mother, Okemah Randall, is a former Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative.

“I kind of grew up around the arena going to various meetings over in Okmulgee,” Harmon said.

Harmon shared her hopes for the future of the MJIL program.

“I would like to see us develop this into a strong program that’s

nationally known. I think that we have really done a good job so far in the short time that we have been around,” she said.

Her first class has enjoyed their experience.

“The students are really pleased with the knowledge they are learning,” Harmon said.

The program already has students hailing from 25 different states and 20 different tribes from across the nation.

“We have our first students that are First Nations Canadians that have joined,” Harmon said.

She commented on the “Idle No More” movement, which began in November 2012 in response to the Harper Government’s treatment of the First Nations people.

“Several of our local students have voiced their support for the ‘Idle No More’ movement. We think of ourselves as an international tribal community. A lot of the things that happen to the Canadian tribes up North can still impact us globally,” Harmon said.

Harmon emphasized the importance of Indian Law education.

“We have a huge need for students to take an active interest in Native American Law,” she said.

She listed several important things those interested in the program should have before pursuing the MJIL.

“They will have to have access to a computer. They will have to have Internet access and just a willingness to learn,” Harmon said.

Harmon also pointed out several aspects of her program that should appeal to prospective students.

“I’ve found that our faculty has an open door policy in terms of communicating. We do have a lot of flexibility in attending the live class sessions or the archive sessions. I think there is a degree of comfortability in working online,” she said.

Besides an interest in Native American law, Harmon emphasized another need in Indian Country.

“I think we need more professionals over all. Native Americans have the least percentage of students of any other minority going on to pursue graduate level degrees,” she said.

Harmon’s program is accepting applications for the 2013 summer and fall semesters. For more information about the program visit [www.IndianLawMJ.org](http://www.IndianLawMJ.org).

## GUNS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Suppliers, he said, just don’t have what the Lighthouse needs in their inventories, “Right now, suppliers don’t have the ammo that’s in demand. Whenever we’ve tried, approximately five to seven vendors, they’re all out of stock, too, waiting for ammo themselves. They’re not filling orders.”

The particular ammunition in question is .40 caliber for their Glock 22 handguns and the .223 caliber for AR-15 Bushmaster semi-automatic assault rifles. High capacity magazines holding 30 rounds or more are also disappearing.

Oklahoma, he said, is no different than other parts of the country. Due to rumors of confiscation, people stockpile these assault-type rifles and ammunition, “It’s going to be the same as everyone else. I think the version that’s going around, is that they’re going to be banned again, or certain weapons and magazines are going to be hard to get.”

Within the Creek jurisdiction, Lighthouse officers have not encountered any situation where a suspect has brandished assault weapons. However, Fixico felt that Oklahoma, particularly the rural areas, has a high percentage of gun ownership and that such an event could occur.

He will not discount the possibility; “There’s always a concern,



MNN/Gary Fife

Pictured above is an AR-15 semi-automatic assault rifle and .223 ammunition, property of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police department.

that’s always in the back of your mind in law enforcement. We’ve been very fortunate that we have not had any major crime. I say that in terms of strong-arm robberies or anything like that. We have had incidents within the tribe where shots have been fired, like at River Spirit Casino. Nothing as far as someone making an entry in, then starting any type of firing and shooting at people. Nothing like that. It is always in the back of your mind that things can happen like that.”

The shooting at the Newtown, Conn., school has heightened concerns about the safety of schools and that has reached the MCN. According to Fixico, Lighthouse has increased patrols at places where children are gathered, “Not at any

specific school. It’s just whenever the director of a child development center calls me and says, ‘Hey, we have a situation that occurred here with the termination of someone. Maybe, someone called up and made a threat or what they felt was a threat, so we’ll increase our patrols in that particular area. As far as going into any particular one, we’re more or less going on a case-by-case basis right now.”

Fixico said they are working to deal with any gun violence within the jurisdiction and will be conducting special operations to prepare themselves. He added that the department would also continue to look for more outlets to supply their needs for ammunition.



## The Summer University Program of the Indian University of North America

A partnership between The Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation and the University of South Dakota.

The 8 1/2-week program begins on Saturday, June 8 and ends on Friday, August 9, 2013.

Applications are being accepted now.

For more information visit:

[www.usd.edu/summerschool/crazy-horse.cfm](http://www.usd.edu/summerschool/crazy-horse.cfm)



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# Young Native guitarist a rising star

## Native guitarist Dylan Whitney and father Don Whitney share road to success

**Sterling Cospoer**  
*MNN Reporter*

SAND SPRINGS — Fifteen-year-old Native guitarist Dylan Whitney was first exposed to an audience before the age of two while his family’s southern gospel group was performing in Chattanooga, Tenn.

His father and acting manager Don Whitney had previously given him a ukulele as his first instrument.

“He had a strap and walked around with me on stage. That kind of put the love of music into him at an early age,” Don Whitney said.

Dylan Whitney started playing guitar at 11-years-old and has since played with blues hall-of-famers and performed at venues across the Southern and Midwestern United States.

“He has played in Branson, Brownsville, Tenn., Texas, Arkansas and Kansas. We have done that between now and June,” Don Whitney said.

At first however, Don Whitney had a hard time booking any shows for his son.

“They don’t want youngsters to perform in front of an audience. They don’t think they’ll take it seriously,” Don Whitney said.

It was Tulsa promoter Amy

Addington who first discovered the young guitarist and started booking him for outdoor shows at Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks, Okla.

“Now he has other management groups courting him to get to that next level,” said Don Whitney.

Recently, Dylan Whitney has no shortage of gigs.

“He has played up to five shows in a weekend,” Don Whitney said.

Don Whitney shared his feelings about purchase of the property by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN).

“I’m glad to see them buy it, enhance it and keep it open. I hope they continue music down there on the river,” Don Whitney said.

The young guitarist recently performed during the MCN employee Christmas party Dec. 21, 2012, at the local high school gymnasium in Henryetta, Okla.

Dylan Whitney’s primarily plays blues, jazz and gospel and will often dance during his shows and perform other feats of showmanship including playing behind his head.

His father has been proactive in promoting his music and encouraging him to develop his passion. Don Whitney has done everything from teaching his son the basics of guitar to booking his shows and mechanically improving his instruments.

“It has been a learning curve for me just trying to get the doors to open,” Don Whitney said.

He shared his secret for success. “You have to have your ducks in a row. You have to have videos, audio recordings. Something to push to them; to let them know this is

not a 12-year-old kid that is learning how to tune the guitar; he is stage worthy,” Don Whitney said.

Don Whitney’s hard work has paid off however and he acknowledges that the time is coming when he will have to pass on his son’s management.

“That’s going to be a bitter sweet moment but it is coming soon and I’m excited to hand the baton off to someone else,” Don Whitney said.

Dylan Whitney attends Sand Springs High School and also plays trumpet in the school band. Some of his musical influences include Stevie Ray Vaughn, Eric Clapton, B.B. King and many Christian groups. He hopes to go onto to college and get his master’s in music and business and continue to thrive in the music industry.

He shared his advice to other musicians.

“Really progress, don’t just play licks but really get into the theory of it,” said Dylan Whitney.

His father expressed his feelings about Dylan Whitney’s success.

“It has really been a whirlwind ride for him. The nice things about it is, he has never taken it for granted. He appreciates all the opportunities he’s had,” said Don Whitney.

Dylan Whitney can be found on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/dylan.whitney.18>

For booking information call 918-770-8093.

To view a live performance visit: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wx\\_TOY\\_eqnc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wx_TOY_eqnc)

His webpage is: [www.dylan-whitneymusic.com](http://www.dylan-whitneymusic.com).



**MNN/Rebecca Landsberry**  
Native guitarist Dylan Whitney performs at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee Christmas party Dec. 21, 2012, at the Henryetta High School gymnasium.



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# OBITUARIES

## KIMBERLY COACHMAN



OKEMAH — Kimberly Renee Coachman was born April 20, 1982 at Ada, Okla.

She began her greatest adventure at 6:30 a.m., Dec. 23, 2012 at the age of 30.

She lived most of her life in Cromwell, Okla., and graduated from Butner schools in 2000. She graduated from Shawnee Beauty College and became a licensed beautician.

Kimberly was a devoted mother to her children, daughter Dezie Rae and son Totkv.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents Joe and Nettie Coachman; George and Ruby Stewart and brother Kenny Phillips.

Kimberly is survived by her children; father Frank Coachman of the home; mother Kathleen Stewart of Bristow; sisters Cassandra Phillips and DeAnna Phillips; brother William Phillips; numerous aunts, uncles, and other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Keanen Johnson, Mike Barnes, Ed Deere, Kelly Wind, Arhlock Buckley and Ray Tainpeah.

Wake services were held Dec. 27, 2012 at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Okemah with Revs. Abe Jackson officiating and Paul Fixico assisting.

Funeral services were Dec. 28, 2012 at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Okemah where burial followed at Arbeka Cemetery in Okemah, Okla.

Services were conducted by Stout-Phillips Funeral Home.

## THOMAS FIXICO



TULSA — Funeral services for Thomas Fixico were held Dec. 31, 2012 at the Creek Chapel Church in Okemah, Okla. Interment followed at the Creek Chapel Cemetery.

Thomas Fixico was born Sept. 9, 1977 in Tulsa, Okla., to George Fixico and Joyce Hale. He passed away Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2012 in Tulsa, Okla., at the age of 35.

Thomas worked as a laborer and loved spending time with his kids, family and friends. He always had a smile on his face and a hug for everyone. Thomas enjoyed going to church, singing and laughing. He loved to play softball, basketball and volleyball.

He is preceded in death by his father, George Fixico, paternal grandparents, Woodrow and Jen-

nie Fixico, maternal grandparents, Billy and Lucy Hale and two nieces, Karissa Dawn and Taylayla Rae Dawn.

Survivors include two daughters, Kyla Fixico and Karissa Tiger, one son, Tayten Fixico all of Henryetta; his mother, Joyce Hale; two sisters, Sheri Tiger and Kintv Deere and one brother, Kuskvna Deere all of Okemah.

Pallbearers were: Adam Wind, Daniel Little, Chris Price, Benji Tiger, Buck Randall and Dodson Frank.

Honorary pallbearers included: Gunnar Varner, Willie Hale, Solomon Sands, J.D. Bowers, Michael Bowers and Dustin Tucker.

Services were under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home in Okemah with Revs. Malcolm Tiger and Edwin Jimboy officiating. Services were held Dec. 29 at the Parks Brothers Funeral Home Chapel. A wake service was held Dec. 30 at the Creek Chapel Church.

Online condolences may be made at [www.ParksBrothersFuneralHome.com](http://www.ParksBrothersFuneralHome.com).

## HEPSY HARJO



WELEETKA — Hepsy Harjo, a resident of Weleetka, passed away Monday, Sept. 10, 2012 in Tulsa, Okla., at the age of 79.

She was born Oct. 17, 1932 in Coweta, Okla., to Alex Scott and Louise (Canard).

She is preceded in death by her parents Alex Scott and Louise Long, her husband Billy Joe Harjo, Sr., three brothers, Robert Wood, Bill Scott and George Scott and three sisters, Mary Lee Hoag, Helen Fixico and Louise Earls.

Hepsy was a member of Little Cussetah United Methodist Church for over 30 years. She was also their piano player.

Hepsy loved music, playing the piano and singing alto, which she also did for the Psalms Trio. The group consisted of Hepsy, Bill Harjo (her husband) and Scott (her son). The group performed together many places, including out-of-state locations and wherever they were called.

She was also one of the proudest Weleetka Outlaw fans there ever was. You didn't want to disturb her when she was watching OU. She loved football.

Pallbearers were grandsons: Michael Brian Harjo, Levi Harjo, Big Harjo, Kv-la-ne Marshall, Chobon Buckley, Rhino Buckley, Julian Harjo, Bub Harjo, and Seneca Smith.

Honorary pallbearers were great grandsons: Jasanee Harjo, Kelvin Harjo, Jaice Bush, Ethan Marshall, Evan Marshall, Austin James Tristin Buckley, Tyler Lee, Samuel Buckley, Jonas Smith and Isaac Landers.

## LEAH ANN JACK

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Leah Ann Jack were held Dec. 28, 2012 at the Creek Chapel Church southeast of Okemah.

Interment followed at the Creek Chapel Cemetery. Wake services were held Dec. 27, 2012 at the Creek Chapel Church.

Leah Ann Jack was born Oct. 22, 1948 in Tahlequah, Okla., to William and Helen Harjo Jimboy. She passed away, Dec. 24, 2012 at her home in Tulsa at the age of 64.

Jack worked for 15 years as an office clerk for the Tulsa Health Department and enjoyed knitting and reading books. She was also a devoted and dedicated member of the Creek Chapel Church of Okemah.

She is preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Elton Jimboy.

Survivors include her two sons, Noel Jack of Tulsa and Pete Jack of Tahlequah; two daughters, Juanita Jack of Tulsa and Anita Jack of Clearview; two brothers, David Jimboy of Holdenville and Marcy Jimboy of Allen, Okla.; five sisters, Edith Jimboy of Clearview, Louisa Chotkey of Glenpool, Robin Jimboy of Okemah, Margie Thompson of Glenpool and Princess Pat Chester of Hobart, Okla.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Leroy Harjo, Michael Bowers, Richard Jimboy, Pahose Harjo, John Eric Foster and Chago Perez.

Honorary bearers included: E.J. Birdcreek, Julian Fixico and Tim Golden.

Services were under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home in Okemah with Revs. Edwin Jimboy and Jimmy Alexander officiating.

Online condolences may be made at [www.ParksBrothersFuneralHome.com](http://www.ParksBrothersFuneralHome.com).

## K'ASA (HENRY WASHBURN)



TULSA — K'asa (Henry Washburn) was born Sept. 14, 1924 to Sam and Tahsaconthlene (Eliza Brown) Washburn. He departed this life Dec. 23, 2012 in Tulsa at the age of 88.

Unlike four of his brothers who joined the Army, K'asa enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the South Pacific Theater during WWII. He was employed at Kaiser Aluminum Company in Tulsa until his retirement.

K'asa dedicated the last 27 years of his life to the revival of the Yuchi language. He was the cornerstone of daily efforts to revitalize and maintain the Yuchi language and culture. His work and commitment saved the Yuchi language from extinction. Being one of only five remaining fluent speakers and the only male speaker, K'asa served as a teacher and translator for the Yuchi Language Project in Sapulpa. His efforts produced eight new speakers of Yuchi, who are now themselves teachers. Through K'asa's mentorship, children are once again speaking Yuchi as they learn in an afterschool program.

K'asa traveled to many places advocating for the revival of indigenous languages. In 2006,

K'asa attended the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, as an advocate and representative for Native American language and culture revitalization. He also travelled as far as Mexico to meet with tribal leaders from other Indigenous Nations. K'asa's extraordinary long-term work with the Yuchi language has been recognized in the Washington Post, Oklahoma Magazine, Cultural Survival Quarterly, National Geographic and the children's book, Traditional Native American Arts & Activities. K'asa was also featured in the film sôKANAnô: We Are Still Here, by Sterlin Harjo.

K'asa was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers, Jesse, Jimmie, William, Dimmie and Joe Washburn, and two sisters, Becky Washburn Cotanny and Elsie Washburn Harjo Proctor (Lessie).

He is survived by his sister, Ethelene Washburn Conley, as well as two nephews, Raymond Washburn and Bobby Cargil. He is also survived by three nieces, Lorene Cotanny Williams, Florence Washburn Frank and Leah Harjo-Ware.

Funeral services were held Dec. 28, 2012 at the Hutchins-Maples Funeral Chapel in Bristow, Okla., with Revs. Jerry Baker and Don Tiger officiating. K'asa was laid to rest in the Magnolia Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Bristow.

## THANK YOU

SAPULPA — We wanted to express our heartfelt appreciation for all the Muscogee (Creek) Nation did for us upon the recent passing of our husband/father, Joel E. Cooper; for the opening and closing the grave, the food voucher and the beautiful honor guard ceremony. God's blessings to each one who assisted us.

- Mary, Clayton and Kimberly Cooper

## THANK YOU

WELEETKA — Thank you to everyone who sent flowers, food cards and prayers during our mother's hospital stay and funeral services.

A special mvto to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police, Communications (Mvskoke Media), Social Services, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Dewar/Weleetka Indian Community

centers, Norma Marshall and students, Paul Tecumseh and Judy Aaron.

God bless every one of you.

- Hepsy Harjo Family

## THANK YOU

TULSA — We are grateful to those of you who called, sent cards and flowers and provided food during the funeral of our dear brother and uncle, K'asa (Henry Washburn).

Mvto to the Muscogee Nation, Thomas Yahola and the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard, Revs. Jerry Baker and Don Tiger for your assistance with the funeral.

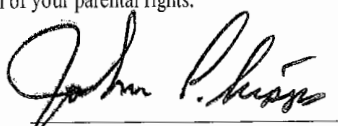
We are so very grateful to the Yuchi people who blessed us by singing beautiful Yuchi hymns during K'asa's wake, funeral and burial. We appreciate Yonie Spencer and Lester Revis for your cultural contributions during the service and burial.

Thank you to the Bristow Indian Community for the use of your facility. A special s@nlAk'ayasOTa to our cousins from the Annie Brown Bucktrof family, i.e.; Jean McNac, Wanda Brese, Johnny & Susan Wheeler, Mona Lisa Gibbs and Charles Jones for preparing our meals.

We wish to particularly express our utmost appreciation to the Yuchi Language Project staff as well as fellow Yuchi instructors and students, past and present, who worked with K'asa to revive the Yuchi language. We were so touched and honored by those of you who expressed words of fondness, praise and appreciation for both K'asa's life and his life's work. We are particularly grateful to Dr. Richard Grounds for his slide presentation of K'asa's contribution to the Yuchi language revitalization effort. We will never be able to adequately express our gratitude to Dr. Grounds and his daughter, Renée, for honoring K'asa, assisting him to translate and teach the Yuchi language, traveling with him to advocate for the revitalization of the Yuchi language and, foremost, for befriending him, enriching his life and bringing out the best in him. Richard and Renée, hEsala KAeneshajih@ s@nlAk'ayasOTa (for all you have done, thank you).

Respectfully and most appreciatively,

K'asa shÂ s'Anû nÔk'ala Enû -The family of K'asa (Henry Washburn))

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)
T.B., DOB: 07-23-97	)
B.B., DOB: 09-19-05	)
Alleged Deprived Children.	)
NOTICE OF HEARING TO:	
Reginald Benson, Natural Father of T.B.	
YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights	
has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in	
the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee,	
Oklahoma on the <u>1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2013</u> at <u>9:00 A.M.</u>	
YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation	
that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and	
Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive	
placement. <b>YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED</b> that you have the right to be represented	
by legal counsel at this hearing.	
<b>FURTHERMORE</b> , failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in	
the child which denial may result , without further notice of this proceeding or any	
subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.	
	
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT	





**SATURDAY JANUARY 26TH**

**NOON - 10:00PM:** \$10 Match Play

**1:30PM - 9:30PM:** Five(5) Hot Seat Drawings every 1/2 hour for Free Play, Cash Prizes, or a chance to win a grand prize qualifier spot for the GMC truck giveaway!

**10:00PM:** The grand prize qualifiers will draw for \$1,000 cash or the chance to win the 2013 GMC Truck!

**THIS JANUARY**

3420 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee OK 74401 [www.creeknationcasino.net](http://www.creeknationcasino.net)



Like us on Facebook! Follow us on twitter! "Luckstrikeshere"





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR JANUARY 2013

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

OKMULGEE — Applications for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are now being accepted through March 31.

The MCN SYEP is a summer work experience and life skills development opportunity for youth, ages 16-21.

Through the application process, youth will learn how to search and apply for employment. The actual employment experience will provide opportunity to learn employability skills and focus on setting and obtaining future career goals.

Eligibility is as follows:

- Native American youth including all federally recognized tribes
- Ages 16-21; must be 16 by May 31 and cannot turn 22 before July 27
- Must reside and work within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries
- All non-Creeks must meet federal income guidelines
- Must submit complete application and required documentation prior to the deadline
- Must attend orientation

To apply, youth may call or email the Youth Works program to have an application mailed to them. Applications are also available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/SummerYouth2013>

For more information, contact the MCN Employment & Training Administration Youth Works

Program at 918-732-7777 or 800-482-1979 ext. 7777.

## GLENPOOL TO HOST BENEFIT STOMP DANCE JAN. 19

GLENPOOL — A benefit stompdance for Jeri Culley will be held Jan. 19 at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Activity Center located at 140th St., in Glenpool, Okla.

Emcees will be Kevin Opv Mack and David Proctor. The event will feature raffles, a cake walk and a 50/50. A concession will open at 6 p.m., with dancing following from 7 p.m. to midnight.

For more information, contact Billy Jack Wilson at 918-752-7195.

## GLENPOOL NASA TO HOST STOMP DANCE JAN. 26

GLENPOOL — The Native American Student Association will host the annual Glenpool NASA Stompdance Jan. 26 from 7-12 midnight at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center, located at Hwy 75 and 141st St., in Glenpool.

The event will feature raffles, concessions and a cakewalk. Arts and crafts space is available and booth space is free with raffle item donation.

For more information, contact the Glenpool Public Schools Indian Education Office at 918-322-9500 ext. 560 or 568.

## CMN AND MCN TO HOST 'COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY' FEB. 10

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment

& Training Administration and Higher Education will host College Goal Sunday Feb. 10 from 2- 4 p.m.

The registration deadline to attend is Jan. 25.

High school seniors, other adults and their families can receive assistance in applying for financial aid for college or technical school, obtain information about services offered by the MCN, meet with representatives from local schools and win prizes.

## GLENPOOL TO HOST BENEFIT STOMP DANCE FEB. 16

GLENPOOL — A benefit stompdance for B.J. Jackson will be held Feb. 16 beginning at 7 p.m., at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center.

For more information, contact Tom Barnett at 918-804-1050.

## MFSI TO HOST FEB. CANNING CLASS

GLENPOOL — The Glenpool Creek Indian Community (GCIC) is providing a 'Canning Class' in February 2013. The Myskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative (MFSI) will demonstrate and teach the canning process for this class. MFSI will also facilitate a discussion on gardening (planting schedules, types of gardens including community gardening, etc); Q&A and the services offered through the MFSI program.

Space is limited and participants may contact Eleanor Irene Van Buskirk, GCIC Treasurer, for more information at 918-946-0077 or by email [eiwhitebird@gmail.com](mailto:eiwhitebird@gmail.com).

## REPORT SIGNS OF METH PRODUCTION

- chemical smells (like ether, ammonia, vinegar or solvents)
- empty containers of lye, acetone, denatured alcohol, drain cleaner, camp fuel, cold tablet boxes, and batteries
- red-stained coffee filters, glassware with rubber tubing attached, buckets of kitty litter, chemical stains on carpet, car seats, etc.
- homes with windows covered or blacked out
- propane burners, possibly stained with blue

Learn more - [www.stoptribalmeth.org](http://www.stoptribalmeth.org)

Montana State University Extension  
Tribal Meth Education Training & Help Center  
National Congress of American Indians



JANUARY is Stalking Awareness Month


IT'S **not** A JOKE.  
IT'S **not** ROMANTIC.  
IT'S **not** OK.

stop  
STALKING


January 16, 2013

Community Services Building  
MCN Main Complex Okmulgee, OK  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program will have an awareness booth set up at the MCN Community Services building lobby on January 16, 2013. Please stop by the booth during the specified times to receive information about Stalking, and take a quiz for a chance to spin the wheel and win a **FREE T-Shirt or other PRIZES!**  
For questions or more information please contact Denise McCrary at (918) 732-7864.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program  
(918) 732-7869



RIVER SPIRIT *Casino*

P R E S E N T S

TICKETS  
\$20, \$30, \$40



Air Supply

JAN 25  
7 PM

TICKETS  
\$20, \$30, \$40



WAR

TWO LEGENDARY BANDS ★ ONE GREAT NIGHT OF MUSIC

GRAND FUNK RAILROAD  
The American Band

FEB 8  
7 PM

TICKETS  
\$40



RICK SPRINGFIELD

FEB 16  
7 PM

The River is Rockin'!

Catch the hottest entertainment in town,  
coming soon to the River Spirit Event Center!  
Get your tickets now, they're going fast!



RIVER SPIRIT EVENT CENTER  
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INSIDE THE MNN:

LAW - NEW OFFICERS GET SHOCK PAGE 4

PEOPLE - CULLEY BATTLES CANCER WITH ARMY OF SUPPORTERS PAGE 9



MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

Tiger stresses "Peoplehood and Nationhood" in address

FEB. 1, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 3  
"HOTVLE HVSE"  
WIND MONTH



MCN Principal Chief George Tiger touts "Mvskoke Solidarity Works" as theme for first year in office

State of the Nation Address  
MCN Principal Chief George Tiger  
OKMULGEE — Oketv hvyomat, orrolope hvmken aeteropotecet, Mvskoke Etlvwtat, estvmahen ohvtvlakes. Ponhopuetake, momet, pumvculvke, momet, pume omakis, emvhervvrat vrvkkvn pun'nekekv'os. Etesvpaklet, etekwvpet vpeye monken omat, orrolope vnvcomen ephovtlake monkvres. Heyv cokv ohonayeckat, mv semvheckv hayeyvnke eskerkvt os. Mvto cekicis!

Mr. Speaker, Second Chief, Members of the National Council, Judiciary, distinguished guests and most importantly the Citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I welcome you here today as I am humbled and honored to deliver the 2013 State of the Nation Address of our great Nation. Today, I want to congratulate your Mvskoke Administration and your Mvskoke National Council for an outstanding year behind us. This is a clear example



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gives the State of the Nation address as part of the Jan. 26 National Council quarterly session in Okmulgee, Okla.

that Mvskoke Solidarity Works. When we met here one year ago - some of us for the first time in our newly elected positions - it was with the hope for a time of both rebuilding and beginning something new for the Mvskoke people while remaining true to who we are as Indigenous peoples.

We meet here today during the Palen-Kolvpohkaken (17th) Session in this historic mound to continue that work and to promote the idea that Mvskoke Solidarity Works. During this past year, we have worked hard to strengthen our Nation though a strategic plan-

ning approach. In order to use this approach, it required us to look at how we can best combine the efficiency and effectiveness of what we do into a model termed "Peoplehood and Nationhood."

SEE ADDRESS - 3

National Council quarterly session held Jan.26

Sterling Cospers  
MNN Reporter  
OKMULGEE — The following is a summary of the quarterly session of the MCN National Council Jan. 26:  
• TR 13-003 Authorizing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Secretary of Health to execute a customer service agreement and addendum with Windstream Communication for Internet services. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.  
• TR 13-005 Supporting the efforts of the National Indian Education Association. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.  
• TR 13-006 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and construction manager as constructor, a general conditions of the contract for construction and a supplementary conditions of the contract for construction with Red Stone Construction Services for construction services for the College of the Muscogee Nation library/student center building. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.  
• TR 13-007 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and architect and a general conditions of the contract for construction with Beck Design for architectural services for the College of the Muscogee Nation library/student center building. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.  
• TR 13-009 Amending TR 12-049 (to define and authorize an oversight committee for Phase II of the Riverspirit Casino project to include the construction of a hotel) as amended by TR 12-099. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

SEE DOME - 2

Over 200 Natives respond to call of 'cyber-drum'

Tribal members from across state gathered for INM rally at capitol

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant  
OKLAHOMA CITY — She was one among the many, but Karen McHenry wore a T-shirt expressing her support for protecting Hickory Ground from developers. She made sure that the issue over the Hickory Ground development nearly Wetumpka, Ala. controversy was part of the Idle No More rally that took place on the grounds of the Okla. state capitol, Jan. 28. About 200 members of multiple tribes gathered to express their concerns about tribal rights across the nation during the rally.



Supporters of the 'Idle No More' movement gathered at the Oklahoma State Capitol Jan. 28 to show thier support of tribal sovereignty and other issues facing tribes.

One of the first rally speakers, Richard Whitman, mentioned that concerns of native peoples, expressed in the 'Idle No More' rallies had a far-reaching impact, "Across the world, across Canada, across this continent, this western hemisphere,

Central and South America, indigenous peoples—we are the evidence of the western hemisphere. He added encouragement to younger members of the crowd saying that this was "their movement." Whitman also spoke of Natives

responding to the call of a 'cyber-drum'. He also cautioned against letting the technology take over, "Now we're able to network and communicate across the globe. But, we have to be very conscious that we don't allow this cyberspace to interfere with our oral traditions, how we speak and communicate with each other in first person." In a later comment Whitman distinguished this gathering from a protest demonstration, "It's obviously a grass-roots movement and not necessarily a reaction." The 'cyber-drum,' he said, was a common-sense usage of technology to complement an age-old oral tradition. McHenry thought preservation of the Hickory Grounds in Alabama should be a part of the rally at the state capitol.

SEE DRUM - 2





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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

**DRUM**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Because everybody needs to know what the Poarch Band did to Hickory Ground. They’re digging up the ancestors, the children, the men and women to build a casino. They need to put them back where they belong. Once you bury them in the ground, they shouldn’t be dug up for a casino,” McHenry said.

McHenry had words of gratitude for the elected and traditional Muscogee (Creek) leaders who have called for the re-interment of those in the disturbed graves, “George Tiger, mekko George Thompson, all the warriors, the people from Hickory Ground and beyond that are supporting the Save Hickory Ground, I just want to thank them for doing all they can to see that the ancestors are being put back where they are supposed to be.”

# Poarch Band of Creek Indians officials respond to protests

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKLAHOMA CITY — To date, leaders of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Atmore, Ala., have not changed their stance in favor of development of the Hickory Ground site near Wetumka, Ala.

An Aug. 16, 2012 press statement by the Poarch Band said in part, “Despite statements made by representatives of the Muscogee Nation, the Hickory ceremonial ground is protected land that is not part of a casino expansion designed to ensure Poarch’s economic stability and create hundreds of jobs.”

Robbie McGhee, Poarch’s Tribal Treasurer and head of its government affairs office noted, “As an Indian nation with close cultural, if not familial ties to the Muscogee Nation, we are disappointed by recent statements that do not accurately reflect Poarch’s efforts to maintain the site and preserve a relationship with the Muscogee Nation, we have honored our agreement to preserve the Ceremonial Ground, just as we honor the history and cultural significance of our shared heritage.”

On Oct. 3, 2012, an additional statement declared, “Tribal Council Member Arthur Mothershed remarked, ‘We have been extremely careful to plan a development that is culturally sensitive while ensuring



MNN/Sterling Cosper  
Karen McHenry gathered with supporters of savehickoryground.org for the state 'Idle No More' rally in Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan 28 on the steps of the Capitol Building.

the economic well-being of our Tribal members, our community, and our State. It is a balanced, reasonable approach for using land that we own,

- lke (ECHO), which means Indian Women Widows Support Group in Mvskoke. Reps. Darrell Proctor, Pearl Thomas, Randolph and Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-5 with Thomas, Wind, Ade, Greene and Hill voting against it. The version of the resolution that passed was a substitute, appropriating \$5,000 instead of \$8,000, which was originally reflected on the agenda.
- NCA 13-002 Authorizing a donation of \$5,000 to the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-6 with Reps. Adam Jones, Eddie LaGrone, Thomas Yahola, Barnett, Proctor and Randolph voting against it.
  - NCA 13-003 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$160,880 to Yardeka Indian Baptist Church for the construction of its sanctuary, restrooms and fellowship hall. LaGrone, Jones and Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-004 Amending NCA 12-094 (Authorizing the appropriation of funds to be used toward the purchase of River Walk Crossing development and for incidental costs and improvements). Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-005 Amending NCA 12-237 (Repealing MCNCA Tile 6, Chapter 7 entitled, “Muscogee (Creek) Nation Paternity Determination Code” and replacing it with a new Chapter 7 entitled “Muscogee (Creek) Nation Paternity Determination Code”). Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-007 Authorizing a donation of \$14,100 to the Backpack Buddies program. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-008 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$30,309 for the purchase of a van to be used by the Okfuskee Indian Community. Wind, Hill and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-009 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$3,317.81 to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-011 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$12,262 to the MCN Food Distribution Program’s fiscal year 2013 budget. Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-012 Authorizing the MCN Department of Housing to extend proceeds of sale funds by \$1,350,000 to provide emergency housing services and alternative housing services for Muscogee (Creek) citizens. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-013 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$266,718 for the MCN Cultural Preservation Department for fiscal year 2013 budget. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-014 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the MCN Transit Program. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0 with Medina voting against it.
  - NCA 13-016 Establishing the “MCN Athletic Commission Code for Boxing and Other Activities” and codifying said law in MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 10. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-017 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$288,628 to the MCN Social Services Department’s fiscal year 2013 budget. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-018 Amending NCA 11-138 (Adopting the Mortgage Assistance Program policy). LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which was postponed by vote indefinitely.
  - NCA 13-019 Authorizing an appropriation of \$4,325 by way of a budget modification for the MCN Department of the Interior to conduct a field hearing to solicit input from Indian mineral

that have already been reinterred. We can ensure that no more remains will be excavated. It has been almost eight years since any remains have been unearthed. We cannot change the fact that remains were found and removed. Those remains are now reinterred and we cannot support disturbing those remains again.’

The statement went on, adding, “We are indeed saddened by the outcome of this recent trip to Oklahoma made by representatives of our tribal council,” said Buford L. Rolin, Poarch Creek’s Tribal Chairman.

“Since 2006, we have reached out to the Muscogee Nation with the hope that they would be open to understanding the facts about the 21st century conditions of what was once Hickory Ground Town and would recognize that our development in Wetumpka does not alter that. Unfortunately we have reached an impasse.”

Noting the recent exposure that this issue has experienced, the Poarch band responded to recent requests by the Muscogee Nation News by saying, “While we respect the Muscogee Tribe’s rights as a sovereign Indian nation, we cannot agree with the Muscogee’s efforts to control the use of our land. We believe that this action will be found to be without merit.”

lessors on developing proposed federal regulations for maximizing oil revenue and providing for federal lease oversight. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.

- NCA 13-020 Amending MCNCA Title 22, Chapter 10 in order to fully comply with the Federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-021 Appropriating \$38,250 to retain DCI Engineers to prepare plans and drawings for the remedial work to be performed on the multipurpose building. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-2 with Medina and Coachman voting against it.
- NCA 13-022 Authorizing a donation of \$3,000 to help support the 2013 Tulsa Indian Art Festival. Medina and Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-023 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$1,000 to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-025 Appropriating \$222,000 to be used toward the purchase of real property located in Creek County, Okla. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-026 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$447,887.60 to Duck Creek Indian Community. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-3 with Beaver, LaGrone and Nichols voting against it.
- NCA 13-027 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,400 for unpaid funeral services of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-030 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$166,700 for the MCN Office of Second Chief. Jones, Hill and Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.



ADDRESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We looked at and assessed various governmental areas and how they best provide for our people, and then required our governmental service areas to work interdependently within all our agencies and move away from functioning independently.

This strategic plan was the product of representatives from our three branches of government working cooperatively together. This again proves that Mvskoke Solidarity Works.

Solidarity refers to the ties in a society that bind people to one another in common interests and for the common good. For the Mvskoke people, Solidarity is based around kinship, traditions, culture and shared values.

Solidarity is the only way we can continue to keep our people strong, to improve all of our governmental services that benefit the entire Nation and promote a Progressive Nation. We know where we came from and through strategic planning and assertive decision-making, all three branches of government can work in solidarity together.

Solidarity does not mean that we will all have the same political values, daily struggles or even the same religious views. However, it does mean we will be committed and work toward a brighter future for our Nation and people because we live on common ground and we are all committed in solidarity to the common good.

I stood here one year ago and gave our citizens a 90-Day Plan along with the Vision of what our Nation would strive to accomplish. I am proud to say we accomplished the 90-Day Plan along with some other big accomplishments.

I will highlight a few of these accomplishments, all of which were the result of the principle that Mvskoke Solidarity Works:

- In April, we purchased the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks, Okla., at a Sheriff’s auction. The Riverwalk is a virtually new \$44 million development that we purchased for \$11.5 million. It is acclaimed as one of the best real estate purchases in Tulsa history. In other words, “we stole our land back.” The Riverwalk represents a dramatic step forward in the diversification of our business interests;
- In 2012 we entered into a Tobacco Compact with the State of Oklahoma after years of controversy and failed negotiations.
- Last year we bought the Okmulgee Golf Course, which was formerly Muscogee (Creek) land and original Creek allotments. Muscogee (Creek) citizens were once forbidden to enter the grounds;
- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gaming Operations continue to grow and prosper despite aggressive competition throughout our markets. During the past fiscal year, the 11 Creek Nation Casinos achieved record results in terms of revenues, operating income and net income distributions to the Nation. As the result of the record financial gains, Distributions to the Nation, which are utilized to help support the Nation’s programs and operations, increased to over \$91 million, an increase of over 10 percent compared to the previous year;
- During the past year, the Creek Nation Casinos completed numerous facility improvements and capital projects including the complete renovation of the One Fire Casino located in Okmulgee. A complete renovation and expansion of the Duck Creek casino facility is now underway;
- We are currently in the design phase of a major expansion of

the River Spirit Casino, which includes the addition of hotel rooms, a showroom theater, convention and meeting facilities, spa, additional gaming and other amenities which will transform the facility to a full scale resort hotel casino on the banks of the Arkansas River in South Tulsa. We will be making public announcements about this project in the very near future, which will include the introduction of internationally known hospitality brand names which are not currently in the area;

- Creek Nation Casinos are major employers in all locations in which we do business with a total workforce of approximately 1,800 full-time employees and an annual payroll, including taxes and benefits, of more than \$75 million. Approximately half of our Creek Nation casinos employees are enrolled American Indian tribal citizens with 45 percent of all supervisory and managerial positions being filled by tribal citizens. We are proud to offer jobs and opportunities to tribal, as well as non-tribal citizens. This creates a significant economic impact throughout the communities we operate in in northeast Oklahoma as well as the state of Oklahoma;
- The Nation participated in the unique Mvskoke Etlvzv Festival at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Out of all the Native Festivals that have taken place at the museum, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was the first Native Community to include and successfully integrate its tribal programs, government and legislative offices into its presentations and displays. The official attendance numbers received from the NMAI totaled nearly 13,000 visitors to the museum and the Mvskoke Etlvzv Festival;
- The first ever ‘Ocmulgee to Okmulgee’ historical bike ride raised awareness about the forced removals that brought Muscogee (Creek) people to Indian Territory from their ancestral homelands in Georgia and Alabama. Riders covered approximately 1,080 miles from Ocmulgee Mounds in Macon, Ga., to Okmulgee, Okla., which was the land route of the Muscogee (Creek) Removal;
- The Nation, through the Secretary of Interior, initiated a “Hire College of the Muscogee Nation Graduates” initiative. Eight CMN graduates or current enrollees were hired in the Realty Trust Service department to assist in the TAAMS project during the last six months. The Secretary of Interior Affairs will be establishing the Department of Energy this year. The Department of Energy will have oversight of Oil and Gas;
- The MCN Department of Transportation has provided approximately 1,700 citizens with transportation services each month.
- The Nation established the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program. The Program will be charged with establishing a charitable non-profit foundation to accept tax-deductible donations. The foundation will be used to provide financial assistance to Muscogee (Creek) students and fund educational research and needs that will benefit Muscogee (Creek) students in reaching their educational goals. The foundation program will transition and receive donations from individuals, corporations and other foundations as it continues to mature and grow;
- Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) formed Muscogee International, LLC and received 8(a) certification;
- MNBE continues business development in Afghanistan and has recently opened Stone Blade

Restaurant and Bar at the Okmulgee Country Club & Golf Course;

- The Nation established a Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) and the primary purpose of TERO is to enforce tribally enacted Indian preference laws to insure that our Muscogee (Creek) citizens and Native people gain their rightful share to employment, training, contracting, subcontracting and business opportunities within the jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;
- On October 1, 2012, the Attorney General’s office assumed the management of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation legal services program. Approximately 380 cases were transferred to the Attorney General’s office and also referred cases out to a group of participating attorneys who maintain private law practices throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction. The participating attorneys represent our citizens in those cases and as a result, we have vastly improved the quality of legal services provided to our citizens by the legal services program. These changes in the legal services program have also resulted in a savings of more than \$950,000 to the tribe for Fiscal Year 2013;
- The Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees voted on November 1, 2012 to grant the College of the Muscogee Nation

the status of ‘Candidate for Accreditation.’ Our college is well on its way to becoming an accredited college where our students will thrive and become educated adults;

- On December 12, 2012, a partnership was entered between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center Network. This agreement will result in the formation of a Northeastern Oklahoma State University SBDC Satellite office located at the Nation, which will provide small business, entrepreneurial and economic development services to Muscogee Nation small business owners and new entrepreneurs;
  - The 11 Creek Nation Casinos collectively offer more than 5,000 electronic gaming devices, table games and bingo with more than 6,000 total gaming positions offered. The casinos also operate numerous food, beverage, entertainment and retail operations;
  - Total costs of operations, expended primarily in our immediate market, exceed \$160 million annually, including more than \$13.5 million paid annually to the State of Oklahoma, Fair Meadows Racetrack and the Oklahoma Racing Associations under provisions of the State Gaming Compact.
- Mvskoke Solidarity Works! All of these accomplishments demonstrate the great things that the Mvskoke

Nation can achieve when we work together in solidarity.

As Mvskoke people we should be rightly proud of these accomplishments of our past year. However, this is just a glimpse of what we can accomplish together.

Mark my words. We are not finished yet! There is much more that remains to be done.

In 2012 we enjoyed additional prosperity and social progress by minimizing internal divisions in the past year. We are on the road to success. In one year we were able to explore our past, reinvent and embrace who we are, where we’ve been, and most importantly, have a clear and compelling vision of where we are going.

Our mutual commitment to the principle that Mvskoke Solidarity Works has collectively brought us much success in the past year. For 2013, let us rededicate ourselves to the foundational principle of Mvskoke Solidarity Works so as to ensure even greater accomplishments and to expand and enlarge the common good.

I thank each and every one of you as well as the National Council for making our Nation a success.

Mvto, and may God bless you, may God bless the USA and may God bless the Great Mvskoke Creek Nation. Enka!



# The Summer University Program of the Indian University of North America

A partnership between The Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation and the University of South Dakota.

The 8 1/2-week program begins on Saturday, June 8 and ends on Friday, August 9, 2013.

Applications are being accepted now.

For more information visit:  
[www.usd.edu/summerschool/crazy-horse.cfm](http://www.usd.edu/summerschool/crazy-horse.cfm)



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA

414 East Clark Street  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
605-677-6240 • 800-233-7937  
[www.usd.edu/cde](http://www.usd.edu/cde)



Crazy Horse Memorial  
12151 Avenue of the Chiefs  
Crazy Horse, SD 57730  
605-673-4681  
[www.crazyhorsememorial.org](http://www.crazyhorsememorial.org)



# New officers get shock

## New MCN Lighthorse Police officers get firsthand feel of the stun gun

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE — If someone is going to use a stun gun in law enforcement, then they have to know what it feels like to be stunned.

That’s the rule and what the newest officers for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Lighthorse Police Department had to experience Jan. 18.

A Taser X26 delivers 50,000 volts into a person for five seconds, making them feel a paralyzing muscle cramp all over their body. It’s an effective non-lethal tool used by police departments all over the country in neutralizing potentially dangerous suspects. Lighthorse officers must feel the shock so they will use their stun gun carefully to prevent any abuse and protect the department against possible law-



**MNN/Sterling Cosper**

Pictured above is MCN Lighthorse Officer Jason Bleeker operating a Taser on MCN Lighthorse Reserve Officer Tyler Sands as part of Sands' Taser certification. To obtain this certification, trainees must be hit by a Taser themselves. Pictured below is MCN Lighthorse Reserve Officer Denver Cargill loading a cartridge into his Taser.



suits for excessive force.

Anthony Wind, Reserve Officer, MCN Lighthorse Police Department said, “It’s considered to be necessary in order to be certified. You’ve got to know how powerful it is. The first thing being, if you get out here, you don’t know how bad it hurts to be Tased. They give you a Taser and you’re running around just Tasing everybody. You have to know its effects.”

Patrolman Jason Bleeker, MCN Lighthorse Police Department and Certified Taser Instructor, conducted the exercise, “It’s a Taser

certification. It’s an 8-hour course for new hires and reserve officers. It’s so they understand secondary exposures. If they ever have to Tase anybody, they ever go to court, they’ll have an understanding of what it’s all about.”

Bleeker added, this course gives the officers the fundamentals of what is allowed and what is not, “They provide you with a curriculum. You have to go by that curriculum and their guidelines. They have case law and things along that line that’s already in place with your officers. If they stay within

that case law, it kind of gives your department a head start on any lawsuits or any court cases.”

Lighthorse officers, Bleeker explained have not had many situations where they’ve had to use the stun guns. But he noted, “If it’s there, use it.” He speaks from experience and the way he described it, “painful.”

Every decision to deploy the non-lethal device is on a case-by-case basis.

Officer Wind’s advice to new officers preparing for the Taser’s 50,000 volts: “stretch.”

# MSPI cracks down on meth and suicide

## MCN Behavioral Health programs helping Natives to fight drug use and suicide

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

OKMULGEE — Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death for all Native Americans, the fifth leading cause of death for Native males and the second leading cause of death for all Native Americans ages 10-34. Methamphetamine and suicide are two issues that are prevalent among the Native community and have become major public health concerns.

According to Leslie Crow, Program Coordinator/Clinician for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Meth/Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI), these statistics indicate a scary trend in Indian Country.

“We come across a lot of people daily that have these problems or are around these problems,” Crow said, “It is not only one problem. These problems are compounded and kind of go together. You cannot come in for a quick treatment. These are battles that people will have to overcome.”

MSPI is a grant that falls under the Behavioral Health Program. It is in its fourth year. MSPI was formed through grant funding from Indian Health Services (IHS).

“Being how we are with the behavioral health,” said Crow, “we

can provide treatment and mental health services. We do have funding to send people to in-house treatment if they are having severe problems or suicide thoughts, or we can send them to in-patient treatment for substance abuse problems for meth. We also provide outpatient since we do have fully staffed services throughout Creek Nation.”

Crow stressed that meth use and suicide can affect any one, any age and that her program is not age specific. The program is available to Native Americans within the MCN boundaries that need help with either of these problems.

“Our behavioral health program does have a youth suicide prevention grant that does target the youth, but our program is addressed to help any one, any age... We do work with the youth, but we also work with a lot of people that help the youth or work with them too,” Crow said.

Training focused on how these issues affect the community is a big part of the program’s responsibility.

“We are not only helping the people who might be suicidal or addicted to meth or other substances,” Crow said, “We provide training to people who might come in contact with these problems. Law enforcement, social services, and other mental health service providers, along with members of the community can benefit from these trainings. We want to train people to know the symptoms of depression and the warnings signs. We also want them to know the signs

of meth use and signs of meth labs throughout their communities,” she said.

Joey Comstock, Deputy Chief of Special Operations for MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police explains the signs of meth use on a person.

“There are signs that you can tell if the person is a meth user,” said Comstock, “They have irregular control of their body, they will be twitching and excessively licking their lips. A lot of meth users have what they call an ‘aging effect,’ they look a lot older than they are.

Comstock also talks about warning signs you might see in the community.

On warning signs of meth in neighborhoods, there is an increased flow of traffic. There will be cars coming, all hours, and only staying five to 10 minutes at a time. The main thing is a chemical smell, such as ether, that will be strong and in the air. There will be a lot of trash in the yards such as coffee filter boxes, cold medicine boxes, Coleman fuel cans and large amounts of batteries.”

MSPI covers a large area within the MCN jurisdictional boundaries and collaborates with other agencies that are in the community to spread awareness on warning signs for meth users and people who are or might be suicidal.

“We would have different needs than a program would have on a reservation,” said Crow, “We try to work with the other agencies locally and with the other counties that have the

different resources. We work with other tribes when we can. It is rewarding because there is a lot more awareness and a lot more activities going on to improve the situation in our area,” Crow said.

This program works with communities in the area to publicize services that are available.

“The more we can get this information about our resources on prevention of meth and suicide to the communities,” Crow said, “The more people will know about our services and that will better help the community to inform them about awareness and the signs of a person who is suicidal or someone who is using meth. Our main goal is to let people know about the services and the treatment that we can provide. That is something that we

found out is that there are resources available but people do not know where to go.”

For more information about the MSPI program, please contact Leslie Crow, Program Coordinator/Clinician at 918-758-1930.



**MNN/Leslie Crow**

Program Coordinator/Clinician for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Meth/Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI) Leslie Crow speaks to a class about methamphetamine use and warning signs associated with the drug.



# New position to aid with MCN community finance

New MCN CR&D employee Marcy Wakeford aims to help tribal communities manage their own finances

**Sterling Cosper**  
*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Marcy Wakeford has been hired as Community Finance Officer (CFO), a new position created within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Department of Community Research and Development (CR & D), to offer training services in accounting and grant writing to the MCN chartered communities.

The CFO's duties will involve fulfilling the department's obligation to the MCN communities in compliance of Title 11 of the MCN Code Annotated. CR & D's obligation to provide these services to the communities is outlined at length in Title 11.

The CFO will help the communities provide detailed budgets to the MCN principal chief, controller and National Council as required by the code and train them on how to bookkeep and prepare finance reports themselves.

The officer will also help the communities apply for block grants for economic development through the MCN and help them meet the requirements listed in the code to qualify for these grants.

To make processes easier for community members to learn and execute, Wakeford is working with CR & D Manager Sarai Geary to establish a community management system.

“We want to create forms so all they have to do is fill stuff in. It will be a management system that they can follow easily and we will train them on it. A streamlined process that makes it simple enough that they can follow,” Geary said.

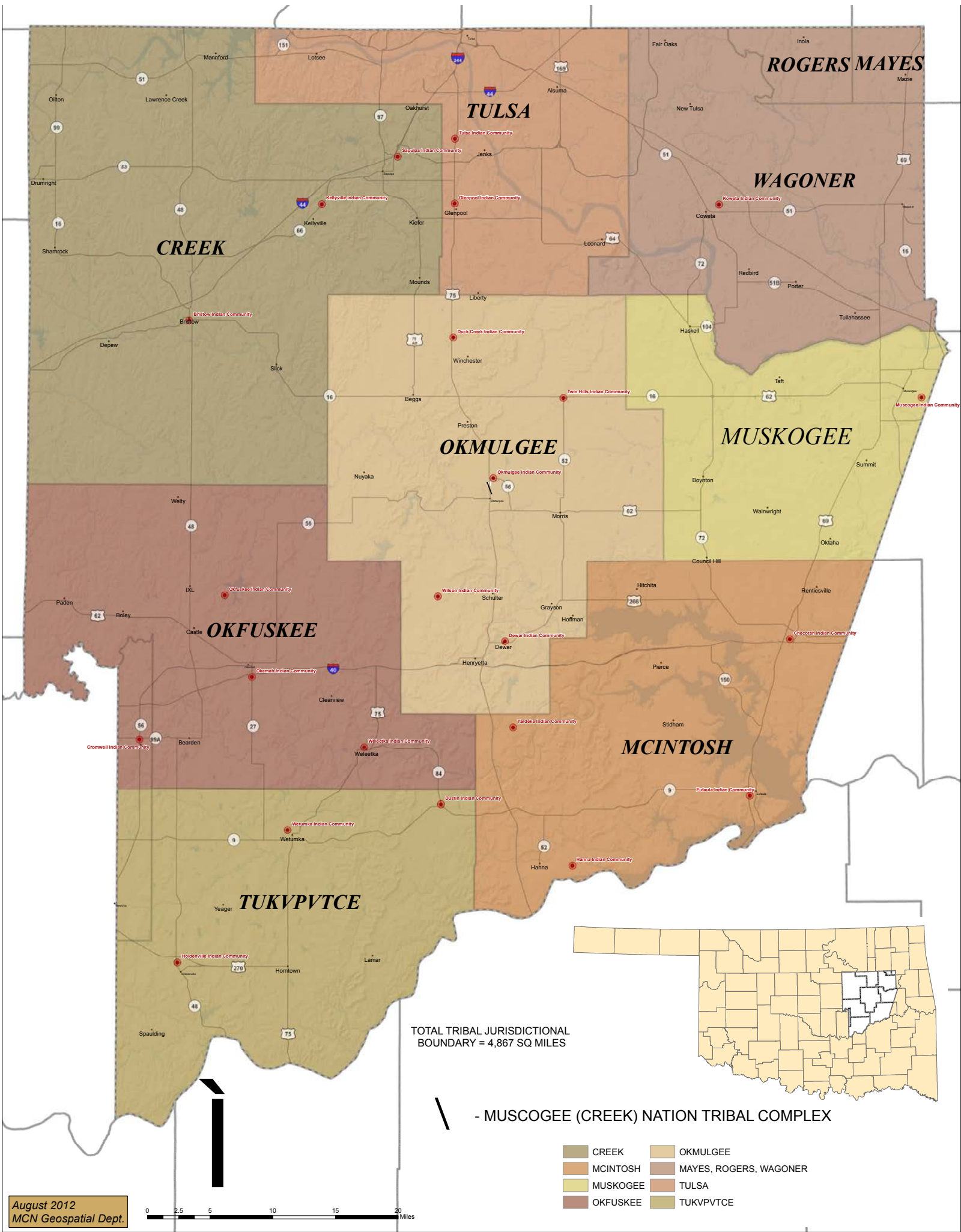
This system will also make training the communities easier and more efficient for CR & D and the communities themselves to train new board members as they are elected.

“We will be creating the skeleton system for them to adopt and use so that nobody is recreating the wheel every time. If there is a new board they do not have to start from scratch,” Wakeford said.

The CFO will only serve as a consolatory position to the communities.

“The audits and everything go to finance,” said Geary.

The officer will not perform the final audits on the communities, but rather help the communities with their bookkeeping and help them select an outside auditor who will prepare financial reports



Photos submitted/MCN GIS

Pictured are the Muscogee (Creek) Nation chartered communities eligible for financial services from new Community Finance Officer Marcy Wakeford.

to be submitted to MCN officials.

The communities will be able to accept services the CFO offers on a voluntary basis.

“We are not going to go out and implement anything. We are going to make things more understandable and faster for them to use,” Wakeford said.

Along with the development of a management system, Wakeford will also become certified in board training to effectively teach the system to the communities.

“We are making education and our credentials a priority,” Geary said.

This certification goes along with other trainings the CR & D staff is pursuing, including grant training, economic development and small business development.

All of these training will aim to provide the communities with resources needed to further their economic development. The training from the CFO will help them obtain grants for develop-

ment and manage the revenue gained from them.

“The easier it is to be organized, the more organized you become and there will be more opportunities for development and growth,” Geary said.

These trainings have helped CR & D develop business relationships with other organizations that will provide resources to their department to help the communities.

One of these organizations includes the Small Business Development Center that recently opened a satellite office on the MCN Tribal Complex.

“That is what these trainings do as well as help us speak the same language they are speaking. So we will work together really well because we will understand what our common goals are and the foundational knowledge that is small business development,” Geary said.

Wakeford expanded on the

benefits of resource pooling between organizations and how she can act as a conduit between the communities and those organizations.

“With the knowledge pool here, somebody might have heard of a grant that might help if they want to do something agriculturally or if they want to get a vehicle. We can help research for someone involved in the community that has to work 40 hours may not have time to research grants,” she said.

Wakeford is a financial analyst with over 17 years of experience. She was employed at with the company now known as Verzion Wireless for 13 years and worked there during a period when the company experienced multiple corporate buyouts.

“So I’m used to ever changing,” she said.

Wakeford has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a minor in ac-

counting from Oklahoma State University.

She has earned up to 500 volunteer hours per year, some of which were earned as a Service Unit Manager for the Girl Scouts of America.

“I was over 52 different troops for three years, coordinating and recruiting adult leaders and giving them information. You hear what their needs are and you have to solve their problems and give them tools,” Wakeford said.

She believes this experience is directly pertinent to her new position with the MCN.

“You give tools to make it easier on the communities. A lot of them don’t have business backgrounds and even fewer of them are going to have an accounting or financial background,” she said.

Wakeford is happy about her new job as CFO.

“Ultimately I’m excited and very flattered,” she said.

*“We are not going to go out and implement anything. We are going to make things more understandable and faster for them [the communities] to use.”*

- MCN Community Finance Office Marcy Wakeford



# Emopunayv

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — It looks like the battle to build the American Indian museum is returning for the 2013 session of the Oklahoma Legislature. It appears to be a repeat of last year, hopefully without the same results.

An Oklahoma City legislator has two new ideas for completing the half-built American Indian Cultural Center and Museum located in Oklahoma City.

One plan has the state coming up with some bucks. The other would provide money to match private donations pledged already. Opponents of the idea still say, ‘not so fast.’ They are pointing to the \$63 million spent already. They also say there’s still no museum and it’s time to let the project die.

A state auditor said the museum board had little experience for the project and decided they wanted the most expensive design. But supporters say the state audit showed no one was cheating in the project and complaints about the choices misunderstood what they are trying to accomplish—an Oklahoma ‘Smithsonian kind of museum.’

It was a state idea to begin with and these days a lot of Oklahomans have been complaining that tribes should be paying for it.

In more exciting news from Oklahoma City, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum will induct Cherokee actor Wes Studi into its Hall of Great Western Performers during its annual Western Heritage Awards April 20.

Studi has the credentials for inclusion. Besides being a native Oklahoman, he’s a Vietnam veteran, sculptor, musician, author and activist. He is best known for his portraying practically all of our ancestors, especially warriors and leaders.

He spoke only Cherokee until he was five when he was sent to Chilocco Indian School where they put an end to that. But he turned that around admirably.

Studi has an incredible list

of accomplishments and has used his Cherokee language to narrate documentaries.

I’m so glad that the National Cowboy Hall and Western Heritage Museum has seen fit to make sure there are more Indians. I wonder how many Indians are in that museum anyway?

Way to go, Wes!

The annual MCN Challenge Bowl is coming up next month. It’s kinda cool to see these kids answering questions about Muscogee history, culture and language.

They’re still looking for volunteers to help.

The “Idle No More” demonstrations have reached the Muscogee Nation. Were you out in the cold for the session at the War Memorial? It was nice to see all kinds of our people coming out to show their support.

The meetings are sometimes being compared to the ‘flash mob’ phenomenon happening around the country.

Imagine what our ancestors would have done with this technology? There could have been flash mobs instead of war parties. Tribes attacking with cell phones?

Did you listen to the last Mvskoke Radio call-in show with Principal Chief George Tiger, Jan. 16?

He shared a lot of information, answered some tough questions and got an opportunity to shine on his accomplishments.

Now, before any anti-Tiger folks start raising their blood pressure, it does him some credit to take our questions in an unconstrained format like that. Nope, there was no censorship there.

We invited callers throughout the program, so if there was something on your mind, we wanted to hear from you. Maybe next time? Anyway.

The next call-in show should be more fun—wild onions!

We’ll talk about recipes; hear about upcoming dinners, maybe find out where the best spots are to get onions and your fond memories of wild onion dinners.

Hompetv cyyacetos!

## Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement

### What is This About?

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

**The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.**

### Am I Included?

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
  - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
  - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government’s records as of September 30, 2009.

### Do I Need to File a Claim Form?

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877, postmarked by **March 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

### How Much Money Can I Get?

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

**For a claim form or to update your contact information:**

**Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109  
or Visit: [www.IndianTrust.com](http://www.IndianTrust.com)**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
M.M., DOB: 03-04-12 ) Case No. JV-2012-07  
Alleged Deprived Child. )

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Unknown Father of M.M., DOB: 03-04-12

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child(ren), you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the **12<sup>TH</sup> day of April 2013 at the hour of 9:00 a.m.** for an **Adjudication Hearing** and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.


Issued this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

[Seal]  
Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

FEBRUARY is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

2013

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS & PREVENTION ARTWORK CONTEST



**THEME:** Artwork and themes should be directed to a teen audience and bring awareness to the problem of teen dating violence as well as encourage healthy relationships and the safe use of technology. Possible themes include: speaking out against dating violence, qualities of a healthy relationship, positive ways teens can use technology in relationships, and helping a friend who is being abused. For ideas and information about teen dating violence and healthy relationships, go to [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org).

**ELIGIBILITY:** Youth ages 12-18 who are enrolled members of a Federally recognized tribe.

**PRIZES:** Grand Prize: \$200.00 2 Runners Up: \$100.00 each

**DEADLINE:** All entries must be received by **February 28, 2013**.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** Winners will be chosen based on the use of creativity and how well the artwork and messages bring about awareness to dating violence, healthy relationships, and the safe use of technology.

Please visit the [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov) for contest rules and registration forms.  
For questions or more information contact Mitzi Pope at [mpope@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:mpope@mcn-nsn.gov) or (918) 732-7892.

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# Wolfe tackles coaching at collegiate level

## Creek coach chats about first year coaching collegiate women's basketball in Poteau

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

POTEAU – Rikki Wolfe is no stranger to the basketball court. She has been eating, sleeping and breathing basketball her entire life and hopes to keep it that way.

Wolfe is in her first year as an assistant coach at Carl Albert State College (CASC). Previously, she worked at Depew High School as assistant coach for the women's basketball team.

“When I started out in college,” said Wolfe, “I originally wanted to be an athletic trainer. But I had a coach, who was an assistant that helped me and always worked with me. She was there when I needed to talk to somebody. I saw how she was with the players, not only me. She helped me to want to become a coach. She was a great mentor to us all.”

Wolfe feels that she can be a mentor to her team also.

“I feel that I can really communicate with our players and identify with them,” said Wolfe. “Seems like not long ago, I was in their position so I know exactly what they are going through from day-to-day.”

Wolfe’s major was health and physical education. Her collegiate journey started at Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC). From there, she went to CASC and finished up at Northeastern State University (NSU) in Tahlequah, Okla. Upon graduation, she found a job at Depew teaching English and coaching.



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Rikki Wolfe, first year assistant coach at Carl Albert State College, watches over stretching exercises during women’s basketball practice.

“I started my first job at Depew,” Wolfe said, “I was there for a year and that was when I started searching for any openings. I kept up with the head coach here, Coach (Jeff) Tadtman, because he coached me when I was going here and he told me that there was an opening for an assistant here at the college. I told him I was very interested in the job. I did miss the collegiate level of basketball.”

Wolfe had to get reacquainted with coaching collegiate ball.

“One thing I had to remember between the difference in college and in high school basketball was the shot clock. I had to get adjusted to that because it speeds up the game. It is a faster pace on this level. Also, I had to remember all the plays that coach [Tadtman] had for our team. Luckily, I remember majority of them from previously

playing for him in the past and the other plays you just learn from watching our team run them over and over again,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe is the only assistant coach on Tadtman’s staff, which also makes her responsible for duties outside of coaching on the sidelines.

“My primary role for our team is recruiting,” Wolfe said. “I go out and find players for our team and try and get them to come here to our school. With the team, I am in charge of pre-season and off-season conditioning. For individuals and positions I work with the guards on our team and he put me in charge of the defense. Outside of basketball I also teach first aid on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.”

Wolfe continues to be inspired and handles the duties that come with her position.

“God is my biggest inspiration,” Wolfe said. “He steered me on this path to be able to get this job and there are all sorts of things that he has blessed me with. My mom and dad are a huge inspiration. They watched me play in high school and college and now are watching me coach. Another inspiration is my cousin, Ryan Long. He has Down syndrome. I look at all the obstacles he overcomes and obstacles he faces every day and he inspires me to face my obstacles. As long as he is smiling and laughing, I know things will be okay.”

Tadtman has nothing but praise for his first year assistant coach.

“Rikki played for me when she was going to school here,” said Tadtman. “She exemplifies everything there is on doing things the right way. She is an upstanding person. Great Christian values. She

is someone that you would want to have your players look up to. It really was a no-brainer to hire her. I tried to get her the first time, when she took the job at that high school [Depew]. She is a solid human being and a blessing for us.”

Wolfe loves the college atmosphere but her goal is to get back where she started.

“I would love to be a head coach at a high school,” said Wolfe. “I do love coaching here at the college level but my ultimate goal is to get back to high school level. To be able to get those girls ready for the next level. I have coached and played on both levels so I will be able to teach them what it takes to play basketball in college.”

Wolfe is the daughter of Rick and Minnie Wolfe. Her clan is Fusv (Bird) and tribal town is Tukvpcce.

# Youth basketball program showcases ‘Native Styles’

## Coach Scott Harjo inspires Native youth

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

DEWAR — “Okay, when we run our press play, where are we wanting to trap?” Coach Scott Harjo asks his team before they run the play. “We want them to turn over the ball so we need to trap here and cover the passing lanes.”

This is one of many questions Harjo asks his team during practice. He wants the players to answer so he knows they are on the same page he is when it comes time to run these plays for their tournaments.

Harjo coaches the Native Styles 14 and under basketball team. Although they practice at the Dewar Public Schools gym, team members come from different areas all over Okmulgee and Tulsa Counties.

“Our kids come from different areas around here,” said Harjo, “We have some kids from Preston, Henryetta, Dewar and Union. They have a lot of talent but were not able to display their talents with certain other teams that they have played with in the past.”

There are nine Muscogee (Creek) players on the 11-man-roster.

Native Styles has won three tournaments and boasts a record



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Pictured above is Coach Scott Harjo preparing his team, “Native Styles,” for tournament play.

of 28-3. Harjo saw a lot of potential starting with their first tournament and continues to see more progress during the time he spends with them.

“After our first tournament we played in,” Harjo said, “which was in Henryetta last year around June, we wanted to play around the Tulsa area. We did not do too well in our second tournament. We lost all three games, but those are the only three losses we have on our record.”

After that happened, Harjo talked with the team stressing the five players on the court at the time

need to be in sync and moving as a unit.

“We had a walk through practice right after those three losses,” Harjo said, “I explained to them... that with the talent that each player has, we need to contain it to where we all can work together. They needed to understand that it is a ‘team’ element and not a ‘me’ element.”

Harjo explained to his team that you have to keep learning about basketball, even when they are not practicing.

“Another thing is you have to be a student of the game,” Harjo

said, “When you have a passion for something you have to learn about it inside and out. After that talk we started clicking. I have a lot of great talent that click as a team. They play great together and they have a great friendship among one another off the court.”

Kelly Lowe is the mother of Kallil Lewis. She likes that this team has formed and how it helps the players.

“I like that they have this team around here for him and we do not have to go to somewhere, like Tulsa, for him to be on a team,” said Lowe, “It is helping him in the

off-season to improve for school basketball. From what I have seen, it has made him [Lewis] more aggressive. This team gets noticed more now that we can play against the bigger teams in Tulsa. It also shows that this team is mostly Native American and that these boys can play against other Native American and non-Native American teams and win against them.

Lewis likes the competition from bigger schools.

“Playing for this team is a lot of fun,” Lewis said, “It gets me ready for the games I have at school. The competition is a lot tougher in these national tournaments. They are more aggressive. It makes me stronger playing against competition from the bigger cities.”

Native Styles aims to compete teams in Oklahoma and beyond. Harjo is hoping that can happen this year. According to Harjo, fundraising for team uniforms is also a priority.

“We will be doing fundraisers and we are asking for donations to be able to help this team to be able to get uniforms and get to these other tournaments. If anyone would like to donate to our team, please contact me. We will take any donations, that will help better our team and the goals that we want to get to,” Harjo said.

To donate to the Native Styles basketball team, please contact Scott Harjo at 918-752-7562.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2013

## KANEY CHAPEL UMC TO HOST ANNUAL WILD ONION DINNER FEB. 2

BOWLEGS — Kaney Chapel United Methodist Church will host a wild onion dinner Feb. 2 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the church, located near Bowlegs off Hwy 59.

Menu includes wild onions, salt meat, safke, frybread, chicken and dumplings, beans and rice, fried chicken, desserts and drink for \$10. Children 6 and under are \$3 and carryout orders are \$10.

Proceeds benefit the Kaney Chapel UMC.

## MCN SENIOR SERVICES TO HOST MONTHLY MEETING FEB. 6

MUSKOGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services Department will host their monthly seniors meeting at the Muscogee Senior Center located at 335 N 4th St., in Muskogee, Okla., Feb. 6 beginning at 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided and seniors from all communities are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Christy Carson at 918-732-7765.

## CMN AND MCN TO HOST 'COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY' FEB. 10

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment & Training Administration and Higher Education will host College Goal Sunday Feb. 10 from 2-4 p.m.

The registration deadline to at-

tend is Jan. 25.

High school seniors, other adults and their families can receive assistance in applying for financial aid for college or technical school, obtain information about services offered by the MCN, meet with representatives from local schools and win prizes.

## NWS STORM SPOTTER TRAINING SET FOR FEB. 12

OKMULGEE — A storm Spotter Training presented by the National Weather Service of Tulsa will be held Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m., at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building.

Everyone is welcome to attend and CLEET hours will be provided.

For more information, contact James Nichols at 918-732-7891 or via email at: jnichols@mcn-nsn.gov.

## GLENPOOL TO HOST BENEFIT STOMP DANCE FEB. 16

GLENPOOL — A benefit stomp dance for B.J. Jackson will be held Feb. 16 beginning at 7 p.m., at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center.

For more information, contact Tom Barnett at 918-804-1050.

## MVSKOKE RADIO CALL-IN PROGRAM LOOKS FOR BEST WILD ONION RECIPES FEB. 20

OKMULGEE — Wild onions! Just the name conjures up the smell of frying onions with eggs, frybread, and the goodies that go with

them. They are the subject of the next hour-long call-in Mvskoke Radio, Feb. 20.

Featured guest will be experienced wild onion cook, Daria Hicks.

Join hosts Gerald Wofford and Gary Fife for Mvskoke Radio, Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m., on KOKL AM 1240 AM, in Okmulgee, Okla., to talk about recipes, upcoming dinners, where to look for wild onions, stories and memories of this spring-time delicacy. Call 918-756-3646 with your comments and recipes.

## CREEK HYMN SINGING SET FOR FEB. 21

OKMULGEE — A monthly Creek hymn singing is held at the Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee, Okla., every third Thursday of each month, from 7-9 p.m. The next event will be on Feb. 21. All are invited to sing and fellowship.

For more information, contact Tecumseh Jackson at 918-752-0952.

## MFSI TO HOST FEB. CANNING CLASS

GLENPOOL — The Glenpool Creek Indian Community (GCIC) is providing a 'Canning Class' in February 2013. The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative (MFSI) will demonstrate and teach the canning process for this class. MFSI will also facilitate a discussion on gardening (planting schedules, types of gardens including community gardening, etc); Q&A and

the services offered through the MFSI program.

Space is limited and participants may contact Eleanor Irene Van Buskirk, GCIC Treasurer, for more information at 918-946-0077 or by email eiwhitebird@gmail.com.

## SALT CREEK UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER MARCH 2

HOLDENVILLE — Salt Creek United Methodist Church will host their annual all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner March 2 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center.

Adults are \$10 and children 10 and under are \$5. Carryout orders are \$10. For vendor space, contact Doug Scott at 405-379-3125.

## LITTLE CUSSETAH UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER MARCH 30

SCHULTER — Little Cussetah United Methodist Church will host their annual all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner March 30 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the church located in Schuler, Okla., on Hwy 75 between Henryetta and Okmulgee. Menu includes wild onions, salt meat, frybread, grape dumplings and more.

Adults are \$10 and children 12 and under are \$5. Carryout orders are \$10.

For directions or more information, visit the Facebook page (Little Cussetah UMC) or contact Paul Tecumseh at 918-270-0231 or Karen King at 918-652-5356.

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

OKMULGEE — Applications for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are now being accepted through March 31.

The MCN SYEP is a summer work experience and life skills development opportunity for youth, ages 16-21.

Through the application process, youth will learn how to search and apply for employment. The actual employment experience will provide opportunity to learn employability skills and focus on setting and obtaining future career goals.

Eligibility is as follows:

- Native American youth including all federally recognized tribes
- Ages 16-21; must be 16 by May 31 and cannot turn 22 before July 27
- Must reside and work within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries
- All non-Creeks must meet federal income guidelines
- Must submit complete application and required documentation prior to the deadline
- Must attend orientation

For more information, contact the MCN Employment & Training Administration Youth Works Program at 918-732-7777 or 800-482-1979 ext. 7777.

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P R E S E N T S

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# Culley battles cancer with army of supporters

"I wish it was me instead of her. She has many years she can go through. She needs to raise her family. It should have been me. I wish I could take all the hurt away from her."

– Irene Culley

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

MASON — Jeri Culley is an athlete, mother, sister, friend, daughter, aunt, fiancé and a Creek citizen. She is also a fighter.

Culley, 30, is in one of the biggest battles of her life as she was diagnosed battling gastric carcinoma, or stage four stomach cancer, in November 2012.

One thing everyone knows about Culley is that she does not lie down quietly. With an army of supporters behind her, she is taking this fight head-on. Upon receiving the news of the diagnosis, it took her a while to even admit that she has cancer.

“At first, when I was told I had cancer I didn’t have any thoughts,” Culley said. I had a blank mind. I don’t think I really accepted that I had cancer. It took me awhile to even say the word. It was about a month after they gave me the news when I realized that I had it. I wasn’t accepting it, I guess.”

To date, Culley has had two chemotherapy treatments. She receives a three-week treatment in one day, which usually takes about three hours to complete.

“I get angry and irritated very easily during my treatments,” Culley said. “Every little thing or noise will make me mad. I know I am mean during that time so I apologize to Isaac (Culley’s fiancé). After the treatments, I get so sick and tired that I all I want to do is go home and rest.”

Culley said she thinks that she is the youngest one there at the hospital when she is getting her treatments. Nurses call her ‘Little One’ while she is receiving her treatments.

“I don’t feel like a little one,” Culley laughed. “Compared to everyone else, I am young, too young to be in there.”

Culley has faced many obstacles since being diagnosed.

“My biggest obstacle was trying not to eat,” Culley said. “I was not able to eat anything at all because I have a feeding tube. I wanted to eat solid foods so bad.”

Culley also had to endure losing her hair. She knew sooner or later that she would be losing her long black hair.

“Another obstacle was losing my hair,” Culley said. “I was ready to lose my hair and I knew I was going to, but once I did, it killed me.”

A few of her former college basketball teammates showed their support by shaving their heads.

“I had my college friends come by and one of them cut my hair for me,” she said, “She said to me, ‘Jeri, if you want me to, I am supporting you. I will shave my head with you.’ So, she shaved her head with me.”

Like her former teammates,



Photos submitted/Culley Family  
Pictured are Jeri (right) and her sister Talia before her chemotherapy treatments. (Below) Talia showed support for her sister by shaving her head.

members of her family joined and shaved their heads also.

“My sister, brother, Isaac, and Talia’s boyfriend all shaved their heads,” Culley said. “I have a lot of support. That made me cry. To me, I was losing hair and they had healthy hair and they chopped it off for me. It made me feel better to know that I was not alone.”

When Culley is feeling exhausted and doesn’t want to do anything, she reminds herself that she has important people in her life that need her to keep going. She knows without them she would not be as strong.

“If he (Issac) does not keep me going,” Culley said. “I would still be lying in the back, not doing anything and give up. He will not let me give up. My kids, I want to see them grow up. I’ve got to keep going for them.”

Culley has two daughters and a son and she misses some of the things that most parents might take for granted each day. What makes it tough for her is that it is basketball season which is one of the many things she enjoys doing with her daughters.

“I miss playing with my kids,” Culley said. “Being able to go outside with them. It is basketball season. I used to take my daughters outside and show them how to dribble and shoot. I miss being able to hold my son.”

Culley has a feeding tube in her stomach and a port on her right shoulder. It cannot be touched or tampered with or it can be damaged.

“This is a battle we have never seen before,” Culley said. “We have seen everything else from the simple cough to the flu. My battles on the (basketball) court, I was never scared. This is different. Every day is a new day. I don’t know if I am going to wake up sick or with no symptoms.”

Culley never expected the overwhelming response she saw after she found out the severity of her illness.

In December, friends of the family organized two softball tournaments, a pool tournament and a stompdance to help with the ever increasing medical bills.

“We were going to get through this however we could,” Culley said. “I thought I had a lot of enemies out there. To see them wear those t-shirts that says something about cancer and with my name on it it is pretty exciting that they were there to support me.”

There are many people to whom Culley is grateful.

“I want to thank Roland (Roberts) and Amber (Sands-Dial) and her family for the softball tournaments,” Culley said. “Lee-Lee (Alicia Arsee-Mangum) and Stevie Mangum for the pool tournament. Billy Jack Wilson for the benefit stompdance. Chief Tiger and Second Chief Barnett for the gifts along with Citizenship Office. Steven and Brandy Hooper and Courtney Josie for taking a collection around Creek Nation.

Culley also thanked her mother’s diabetes team, River spirit and One Fire Casino for purchasing Christmas presents for her children. She especially wanted to thank her family and mom for everything they do for her.

“I know I am leaving a lot of people out who have pitched in and gave small donations here and there,” Culley said. “I want them to know I am grateful for them. Even if it was just an extra dollar, it was much appreciated from my family.”

Her mother, Irene Culley, shares the same sentiments for the support.

“I’m happy for everyone who has helped her,” Irene Culley said. “All of her friends stepping in and doing that it means a lot. I can’t express it enough.

“I wish it was me instead of her. She has many years she can go through. She needs to raise her family. It should have been me. I wish I could take all the hurt away from her.”

## Native businesswoman sets ambitious agenda

### Ginette Overall, CEO of Power Ready, urges Native women businessowners to unite

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE — A successful Muscogee (Creek) businesswoman has cautions for winter weather electricity loss and wants to build a directory of other Creek women in business.

Ginette Overall is president and CEO of Power Ready, a successful Tulsa-based dealer in back-up electrical generators for residences and businesses. Her firm sells all sizes of generators for use as an alternate power source in case a home or business loses electricity. Overall spoke Jan. 9 on Mvskoke Radio about preparation for bad weather and building a network of Creek businesswomen.

Overall saw a need for the appliances and service in the local market and now sells to major businesses and even some tribal governments. She said there are a lot of things to consider before purchasing a back-up generator.

“There’s the obvious reason is when the electricity goes off you have no lights and no heat, but there’s also the medical reason and health reasons why someone should have one. If your home is left unattended, you certainly don’t want pipes breaking and your house being flooded. If you’ve got a side of beef in the freezer, you don’t want that going to waste. That’s too expensive, so there are lots of reasons why. Mostly, I think it’s just for the comfort, security and the peace of mind to know that your alarms are still going to work, your telephones are still going to work and you’re going to be able to get help if you need it,” Overall said.

Besides her own enterprise,

Overall is involved as Treasurer for the American Indian Chamber of Commerce Oklahoma (AICCO) chapter in Tulsa. The organization provides a common meeting ground for Okla., Indian businesses.

She said, “The AICCO is a very unique kind of organization of Native business owners and they network to promote each other.”

She said, AICCO meets on the third Thursday of each month. Although representatives of tribal casinos do show up, it’s primarily the small Indian businesses that attend, according to Overall.

Social activities complement the business session and Overall said, give them a chance for more interaction, “There’s nothing that replaces ‘face time’ and when you get to know someone and know what they do, then sometimes it fits in with what you’re doing. You’d much rather do business with a Native person.”

Overall hopes to take her interest a step further. She’d like to compile a central source for Muscogee (Creek) women in business, large or small, “I want to start a directory for Creek women. It doesn’t necessarily have to be a business, if they’re an artist or they’re some professional, like an attorney or doctor. Any profession that they have, if they’re a Creek female, I want to make a directory so that we can identify each other.”

Power Ready will be diversifying in the future as Overall explores new opportunities in the electrical service industry. At the same time, she’s keeping her eyes open for Creek businesswomen to include in a forthcoming directory.

According to Overall, interested Creek businesswomen are invited to contact her and be included in her new example of ‘Creek woman power.’

Power Ready can be reached at 918-712-5300 or [www.powerready.net](http://www.powerready.net).



MNN/Gary Fife  
Muscogee (Creek) citizen and businessowner Ginette Overall is president and CEO of Power Ready, a Tulsa-based dealer in back-up electrical generators for residences and businesses.



# Koweta Indian Health Facility receives radiology accreditation



Photo submitted/MCN Department of Health  
Pictured left to right are Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Radiology Director Pete Tiger, Computed Technologist Lori Hill and Health Administrator for the Koweta Indian Health Facility Cynthia Hillshafer.

**Media Release**  
*MCN Department of Health*

COWETA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health was awarded a three-year term of accreditation in computed tomography (CT) for both adults and pediatric imaging by the American College of Radiology (ACR) Jan. 3.

On her first experience and attempt, Lori Ann Hill, Computed Technologist, applied to the American College of Radiology (ACR) in Sept 2012 starting the laborious journey to facility accreditation for the Koweta Indian Health Facility.

This process begins with an on-site visit from a medical physicist who performs quality control measures so that accurate patient

dosimetry readings are within ACR standardized guidelines. Three examinations are required, at least one of which must be a specialty examination.

If both adult and pediatric patients are seen, at least one of the examinations must be a pediatric examination. Phantom images and CT studies are gathered and reviewed then submitted to the ACR for final review. The ACR gold seal of accreditation represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety. Board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field award it only to facilities meeting ACR Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards after a peer-review evaluation.

Image quality, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs are assessed. The findings are reported to the ACR Committee on Accreditation, which subsequently provides the practice with a comprehensive report they can use for continuous practice improvement.

The ACR is a national professional organization serving more than 36,000 diagnostic/interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and medical physicists with programs focusing on the practice of medical imaging and radiation oncology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services.

# Ten ways to stay healthy and enjoy special meals

**Media Release**  
*MCN Diabetes Program*

OKMULGEE — Before you go to a holiday meal, feast day, potluck graduation or birthday party, make a plan to stay on a healthy eating track, choose the ways you can stay on track and check YES! I CAN!

After the event, the ones you did check YES! I DID IT!” Bring this to your next appointment with your health care provider.

1. Earlier in the day, eat breakfast or healthy snacks. Try not to delay eating so you can eat more at the feast. If you skip meals, it may be harder to manage your blood sugar. It will make you hungry. You will be more likely to overeat at the special meal. \_\_YES I CAN! \_\_YES! I DID IT!
2. At the special gathering, limit before-meal chips and crackers. Try putting a small portion on a small plate or napkin and eat only that. Avoid creamy dips and cheese. Choose salsa as a dip if it is served. \_\_YES! I CAN\_\_YES! I DID IT!
3. Limit the number of starchy foods (potatoes, macaroni, bread) you choose. Have a serving of just your favorite one. Or eat 1/2 slice bread and a few tablespoons of other starches. \_\_YES! I CAN! \_\_YES! I DID IT!
- 4.Choose vegetables that are

raw, grilled or steamed. Avoid vegetables in cream sauce, gravy, butter or cheese sauce. \_\_YES! I CAN! \_\_YES! I DID IT!

5. Drink calorie-free drinks like water, unsweetened tea, seltzer or diet sodas. Avoid regular sodas and juice. \_\_YES! I CAN! \_\_YES! I DID IT!



6. Avoid drinks with alcohol or limit them. Women should drink no more than one alcoholic drink a day. Men should drink no more than two. \_\_YES! I CAN! \_\_YES! I DID IT!

7. If you choose to eat dessert, have a small piece. Ask for half of a piece of cake or pie. Try not to eat the frosting on cake. Don't add whipped cream. \_\_YES! I CAN! \_\_YES! I DID IT!

8. After the meal, take a walk with family members. Walking will lower your blood sugar level. You will have more energy. \_\_YES! I CAN! \_\_YES! I DID IT!

9. If you eat too much, don't feel bad. You have not failed because of one meal. Think about the days you did not overeat. \_\_YES! I CAN! \_\_YES! I DID IT!

10. Plan to get back on track the next day. Make a plan for what you will eat for breakfast-maybe a boiled egg and a piece of whole wheat toast with non-fat milk (or soy milk.) You are back on track! \_\_YES! I CAN! \_\_YES! I DID!



# ATTENTION MUSCOGEE WW II VETERANS

01 February 2013


The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) is hosting an Honor Flight this Spring. The trip will be the week of 21-26 April 2013, a 6 day and 5 night stay. The Honor Flight is open to all Muscogee WW II Veterans. The WW II Veteran is also allowed to bring one guest. The Honor Flight will take the Muscogee WW II Veterans from Okmulgee in our tribal bus to Tulsa, and then to Washington, D.C. via airline. The Veterans and their guests will be visiting memorials in Washington, D.C. and surrounding areas.

The purpose of this trip is to introduce our Muscogee WW II Veterans to a world of monuments and memorials that they helped inspire. The stops on the trip include, the National WW II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima Memorial, National Museum of the American Indian and the Marine Corps National Museum. Of our living WW II Veterans thus far verified:

**COON, Phillip USA**  
**DIXON, Mamie WAAC**  
**FISH, Eddie USAAF**  
**HARRY, Simon USA**  
**HAYES, Raymond USCG**  
**KNIGHT, Willis USMC**  
**MCGIRT, Raymond USA**

**GORDON, John USA**  
**MCINTOSH, Thomas USN**  
**MOORE, Tom USA**  
**ROBERTS, James USN**  
**WIND, Daniel USA**  
**YAHOLA, Miller USA**

Those that want to take this trip, please respond to the Veterans Affairs Office by 15 March 2013.



If there are any other Muscogee WW II Veterans that have not been listed above, and would like to attend, or just know more about the trip, please contact:  
**Ken Davis at (918) 732-7739 or Brooke Smith at (918) 732-7744.**



# Remembering Johnny "Hompvks" Harjo

## MCN employ-ees share mem-ories of beloved coworker

**Sterling Cospers**  
*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE — Johnny Harjo is one of the first people who made an impression on me early in my employment at Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN). At that time, I was very tense, trying to learn the ropes and prove my worth as the new Muscogee Nation News reporter.

This was my first real job as a journalist and furthermore, I had not grown up in the MCN tribal jurisdiction. While sitting at my desk during my first week, toiling away and trying to find my rhythm in this new environment, a new face approached me, smiling like he had known me his whole life.

Johnny introduced himself and began sharing his advice as a veteran MCN employee. He advised me to relax and focus on my work. It wasn't profound but his energy and the way he said it translated more than the words themselves.

As my first few months passed, Johnny would come through to clean my area and stop for extended periods to speak with me like we were old friends. At first I was a bit flustered by the length of his visits. I was new and felt time was valuable to my progress.

Wanting to be respectful however, I would drop what I was doing and listen. After a while I found that giving Johnny my full attention made me more relaxed than my whole lunch break ever did and listening to him was time well spent.

Something about his simple, kind spirit never failed to quiet the bustle of a typical day in the news-room.

As I got to know him better, Johnny began sharing his faith with me. He also began sharing many of his personal trials and how he viewed them according to that faith.

Having grown up in Christian schools and the church, I can't think of many other people I have encountered that got the message like Johnny. The simplicity of his approach to life was like a constant sermon that eclipsed any I'd heard from those who'd been through seminary and received formal theological education.

Johnny understood life. I was very sad to hear that Johnny had retired Sept. 14, 2012. I knew my days at the office would never be the same without his advice and kind spirit.

When I heard Johnny passed away Jan. 11, I knew others, many who were much closer to Johnny than I, would be without the same kind spirit I'd come to know and that world had lost a remarkable and benevolent individual.

MCN Senior Services Manager David Dunson shared similar memories of Harjo's demeanor.

"Many times he would come in like he had with many others and he would enlighten your day, strengthen you and also whatever you were going through at that time he could take your mind off of whatever it was," he said.

Rev. Dunson, who is also pastor at Newtown Indian Church in Okmulgee, Okla., also remembers Harjo's faith.



**MNN/Gerald Wofford**  
Pictured is beloved Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee Johnny Harjo who passed away Jan. 11.

"There's nothing that comes to mind where Johnny had any difficulty because he just left everything to the Lord," he said.

Harjo ministered throughout his daily life and also shared his faith beyond Oklahoma.

"He went to different states, his ministry wasn't just here and in Oklahoma but I know he went to the different reservations around the country and he spread the word there," Dunson said.

Harjo's supervisor, MCN General Services Administration (GSA) Facilities Manager Danny Roberts recalls the high priority Harjo put on mobile ministry.

"He hardly ever took off unless he was taking those long trips," Roberts said.

Harjo also placed a high priority on his work as MCN GSA Facilities alternate relief technician.

"No matter what I'd ask him, I wouldn't have to ask him twice and I wouldn't have to go check, because it was done as soon as he was able," Roberts said.

Roberts regarded him as more than an employee.

"We weren't just co-workers, we were friends," he said.

Several GSA employees recalled stories about Harjo.

Roberts remembers one morning when Harjo was having car problems.

"We came in and the building had already been unlocked. We rewound the cameras to around 5 a.m., and saw a figure coming in and it was Johnny. He walked from Morris to here," he said.

He also recalled a comical story when another GSA employee was having car trouble.

"Down where everybody parks in our building we had a big pile of gravel. Dean needed a ride and he called Johnny. On the camera we were watching and Johnny came in in that black truck. He pulled up to the gate and, bam," Roberts said.

Fellow co-worker Ty Hicks received counsel from Harjo as an elder co-worker.

"Somebody called us grunts. I'm not a military guy but Johnny was and he listened to my spiel and I was like, 'you know I can't believe they called us grunts. We do

this and that and they think we're scum,'" Hicks said.

Harjo, a member of the 45th Infantry Division of the U.S. National Guard, shared the military definition of grunt with Hicks.

"He was like, 'a grunt is really a compliment because in the military, a grunt is somebody that can do anything in any situation,'" Hicks said.

Hicks received more wisdom from Harjo.

"He said, 'you know what Ty? Some of the best crops are from the valley.' He would uplift you; that's what he did with me," Hicks said.

Roberts shared a story about one of Harjo's nicknames among GSA employees.

"Some of them called him Johnny Redcorn and on the phone bill that they sent us it would say, 'Johnny Redcorn,'" Roberts said.

MCN GSA Facilities Day Janitor Angela Francis spoke about another nickname of Harjo's relating to his love for food, Hompvks, roughly meaning 'to eat' in the Mvskoke language.

"When I started, they called him, 'Johnny Hompvks' and for the longest time I thought it was his name," Francis said.

She remembered another one of Harjo's personality traits.

"He loved to talk with his hands," Francis said.

Francis pointed out the extent of his joyful demeanor during the time when he was becoming ill.

"Even right before he had his surgery, he had a smile on his face. I never heard him complain about pain; he was just a strong person," Francis said.

Dunson saw this strength through Harjo's faith.

"You could tell that it came from his heart that his belief was there and he was strong in that belief. When you talk about what Jesus taught, he followed the scriptures as much as any human could," Dunson said.

Harjo is survived by his children; Johnny Harjo Jr., Melissa Harjo, Tracey Harjo, Lewis Harjo, Comma Harjo and Shelly Harjo, his sister, Katheryn Harjo as well as numerous grandchildren and other relatives.

## Muscogee (Creek) citizens reach out to other widows

**Sterling Cospers**  
*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Nancy Deere started Este-Cate Hoktvke Oyevlke (ECHO), Mvskoke for Indian Women Widows Support Group, in July 2012 to give Native widows an outlet to express their grief.

The group, which meets the first and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the Muscogee (Creek) Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee, Okla. from 6-8 p.m., was created by Deere to provide Indian widows with an environment tailored to their specific cultural needs while dealing with the loss of their husbands.

"Native American women are unique," she said. "We don't just go out there and talk about it; we keep it to ourselves but we can open up to our own people and that's why we started this."

She believes her group has fulfilled this purpose.

"We do communicate a lot better," Deere said.

As chairperson and founder of ECHO, Deere believes her group is providing a much needed service.

"There's not a lot out there to help Indian women who are widows," she said.

Deere, who has been a widow for seven years, emphasized the importance of providing ongoing support for these women.

"A lot of people think that we'll get over it but it's not necessarily that easy, it continues," she said. "The things you did with your husband you no longer do, which makes you recognize that death is forever. We'll always grieve."

She explained that ECHO helps members deal with this realization, which helps them obtain a more optimistic outlook.

"After our meetings we go home with a better tomorrow," Deere said.

According to Deere, her group has been a success so far.

"It's getting a lot of attention. Tonight we have two more ladies from Oklahoma that are supposed to join us," she said.

ECHO received financial support from the Muscogee (Creek) National Council through legislation passed at the quarterly session Jan. 26.

Deere hopes to build on this success by expanding.

"Our goal is to start chapters in

different communities. We want to reach all the Native American widows in Okmulgee, Okla. and throughout the state," she said.

Deere's partner, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sharon Neil, stated that the group has even gained attention from widows in other states.

"We even have a woman in Shoshoni, Wyo. that wants to get a hold of us. We are going to see what we can do to help them get started," Neil said.

Neil hopes they can expand their reach into the future as well.

"We want to share this with the younger generation coming up. We have a younger woman in our group that just lost her husband not even a year ago," she said.

She explained the impact loss has down through family generations.

"It's always momma, grandma or great grandma," Neil said. "If we don't teach our younger women these things, how are they going to know what to do if something happens to them? All the kids look to them and they have to have something to grasp onto."

Deere emphasized the unique importance women have in Native families.

"In an Indian world, clans and tribal towns are determined through the women's side," she said.

Deere's understanding of Native culture enhances the positive impact ECHO has on Indian widows in a variety of ways.

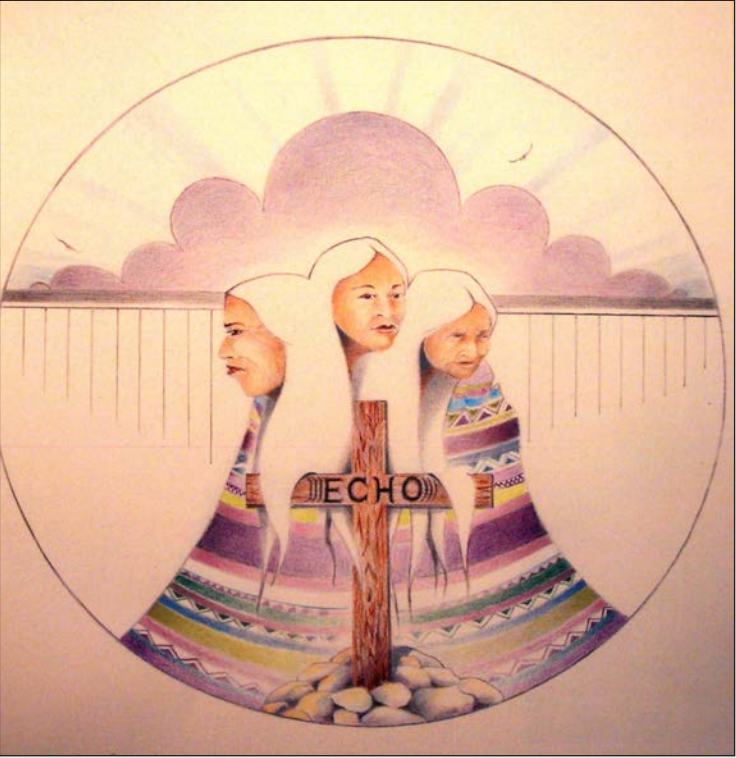
"We have ladies in our Hanna group that don't understand English very well and are more comfortable talking to someone they know can speak Creek to them. That's where Nancy comes in," Neil said.

Having been a widow for one year, Neil believes that her and Deere's firsthand understanding can help the other widows in their group.

"They know where we are coming from because we've all felt the same thing; we all felt that grief and sorrow," Neil said.

By developing ECHO, Deere and Neil have found purpose through their loss.

"We really enjoy what we do; we're passionate about it. This is what I want to do for Indian women," Deere said.



**Artwork submitted/** Chebon Dacon

The ECHO seal as described by member Sharon Neil: "The old rugged cross representing the trials and tribulations that widows go through. The grieving process and the rain coming from the clouds wash away our sorrows and gives us hope of a better day to come. The rays of the sun are shining through the gray clouds to show us that there is a light of hope on the other side and the birds flying taking away the spirit of our love one back to the creator. The colors of the different blankets the women are wearing represent the feelings of our hearts."



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# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKEKE MEDIA

## MCN weighs options for multipurpose building

### Litigation a possibility in the future of the dome

Sterling Cospers  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Attorney General Roger Wiley discussed several options for the future of the Nation's multipurpose 'Mvskoke Dome' building during a quarterly session of the MCN National Council Jan. 26.

Wiley made statements before the council voted on and passed a tribal resolution entitled TR 13-011, allowing the principal chief to execute an agreement with the civil engineering firm DCI Engineers Inc. for structural engineering services to the building.

"We need engineering drawings stamped and certified by an engineer who's reviewed and tested everything and said, 'this is what we need to do to make it safe for the general public,'" he said.

The council also passed NCA 12-021, appropriating \$38,250 to retain DCI Engineers Inc. to prepare plans and drawings for re-



MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) multipurpose 'Mvskoke Dome' building was closed April 10, 2012 per an executive order issued by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, citing safety issues due to the compromised structural integrity of the facility as the reason for the closing.

medial work to be performed on the multipurpose building.

Rep. David Nichols responded to Wiley's initial statements.

"How are we going to recover the money?" Nichols asked.

Wiley said there was the possibility of litigation and outlined two options.

"We can file a lawsuit against this engineer, architect, whoever is ultimately responsible for this. If we do that we have to wait for the litigation to wind up, so that's two or three years that the building sits vacant."

"The other option is to proceed to do the work ourselves. We can

always include that as damages in the lawsuit and that way the building is accessible while the case is playing out," he said.

Nichols asked how long it would be until a lawsuit was filed.

SEE DOME - 3

## River Spirit Casino shooting suspect apprehended

### Delahunt, 19, arraigned on two charges Feb. 6

Sterling Cospers  
MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — A suspect has been apprehended for a shooting incident that occurred Nov. 18, 2012 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) owned River Spirit Casino at 8330 Riverside Parkway.

Spencer Delahunt, a 19-year-old Caucasian male, was arraigned Feb. 6 in the Northern District of Oklahoma U.S. District Court for possession of an unregistered silencer and malicious injury to a building in Indian Country.



MNN/Christina Good Voice

Law enforcement responds to a shooting incident at River Spirit Casino Nov. 18, 2012.

On the evening of the shooting, responding officers received a tip that led them to Delahunt, who was at a housing complex approximately 150 yards east of the casino.

"Whenever our officers made

contact with him.... he was talking but we couldn't do anything because he was under the influence, which prohibited us from being able to question him," MCN Light-horse Police Chief Fixico said.

While at the residence, law enforcement discovered a .22-caliber rifle with a home-made suppressor attached and a .30-caliber carbine rifle. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) confiscated both firearms.

"With the ATF you have to have registration on a silencer," Fixico said.

Fixico was unable to specify if either weapon was used during the incident.

At the scene, bullets struck several places near the valet and underground parking areas.

"An FBI agent went and spoke with him the next day and he told the agent he had been trying to shoot the blinking lights at the casino," Fixico said.

SEE SHOOTING - 2



FEB. 15, 2013  
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WIND MONTH

### Inter-Tribal Council passes 11 resolutions during quarterly session

Rebecca Landsberry  
MNN Editor

DURANT, Okla. — The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes adopted 11 resolutions during the general session Feb. 1 at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Okla., as part of the quarterly meeting Jan. 31 - Feb. 1.

Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Choctaw Nation Chief Greg Pyle, Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard Harjo and Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Principal Chief George Tiger who serves as president of the Council, presented progress reports for their respective tribes during the general session Feb. 1.

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker was absent.

A moment of silence was observed for the late Cherokee Nation Secretary of State Charles Head who died in a car accident Jan. 30.

Rev. Bertram Bobb gave the invocation.

Tiger introduced event speakers, including: Native American Liaison for the state of Oklahoma Jacque Secon-dine Hensley, Regional Director of the Eastern Oklahoma Region of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Robert Impson and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the U.S Department of the Interior Kevin Washburn.

Washburn spoke about the national political climate and how tribal self-governance sets an example for the rest of the country.

"The leadership here is tremendous and I hope that you will keep it up and continue to lead the rest of the country in goodwill," Washburn said.

He also commented on the staffing of the regional BIA offices located in Muskogee, Okla.

SEE TRIBAL - 2





**MUSCOGEE NATION  
NEWS STAFF**

MANAGER  
CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE

EDITOR  
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EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
GARY FIFE

REPORTER  
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SPORTS WRITER  
DARREN DELAUNE

FEATURE WRITER  
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**SHOOTING**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Officers from the ATF, Federal Bureau of Investigation as well as Tulsa and Lighthorse Police departments were all involved in the case.

According to Fixico, federal officials will be pursuing a 10-year sentence for the possession of a silencer charge and a \$250,000 fine for the malicious injury of a building in Indian country.

He also stated that his department is currently working in conjunction with the MCN administration to have several Lighthorse officers assigned to patrol River Spirit.

“Hopefully that is something we can get budgeted in,” he said.



MNN/Sterling Cosper  
Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs with the U.S. Department of the Interior Kevin Washburn addresses attendees of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes general session Feb. 1 at Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Okla.

**TRIBAL**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We’re in a transition period in the federal government and if we really want to be committed to tribal self-governance, those dollars should be spent by tribes, rather than keeping federal offices open . . . as the federal government shrinks, I want to see tribal employment grow,” Washburn said.

Tiger, MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett and MCN National Council Speaker Sam Alexander presented a 2013 MCN Pendleton blanket, designed by MCN Tourism & Recreation, to each of the other four tribes’ representatives, including one to the Head family.

Tiger gave the MCN report and mentioned the expansion and development of the River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Okla., to include the construction of a hotel.

“We’re also looking at devel-

oping an aggressive master plan for the procurement of the River Walk, which is across the way from our casino,” Tiger said.

Future tribal projects included the creation of a department of energy and the establishment of a utility company.

“I know that economic development is the driving factor of what we do as nations and there’s a number of things that are going on, not only with what we do with our small business development center, with TERO but also through our Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise group, which is chaired by the second chief. Our future looks bright,” Tiger said. “When our tribes are successful, the state of Oklahoma is successful. What’s good for Indian Country is good for the state of Oklahoma.”

During work group meetings Jan. 31, participants discussed tribal programing development

in the areas of social services, language, housing, commerce/economic development, communication, tourism, education, health, elders/aging, child welfare, enrollment, realty and repatriation/cultural preservation, employment and training, and roads/transportation.

The work groups produced 11 resolutions for review by the council. A summary of each resolution is as follows:

- 13-01 establishing a standing committee on social services
- 13-02 supporting the position of the Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Nation citizens Dusten Brown and Baby Girl in the case of Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl et al
- 13-03 supporting the inclusion of Indian law principles and subject matter on the Oklahoma Bar Exam
- 13-04 establishing a standing committee on standing enrollment

- 13-05 establishing a standing committee on environmental protection
- 13-06 establishing a standing committee on health
- 13-07 supporting NAHASDA negotiated rule making
- 13-08 establishing a standing committee on realty trust services
- 13-09 recommending and addressing the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act
- 13-10 continuing financial support of the annual “To Bridge a Gap” conference in the amount of \$1,000
- 13-11 supporting the position of Cherokee Nation in opposition to the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit’s application of Ex Parte Young Doctrine to tribal sovereignty

The council adopted all resolutions.

The Cherokee Nation will host the next quarterly meeting in April 2013.

# Save Hickory Ground joins 'Idle No More'

Darren DeLaune  
MNN Contributor

TULSA, Okla. – Two “Idle No More” demonstrations were held in Tulsa, Okla., and in Wetumpka, Ala., Jan. 26. Both demonstrations were held in support of the “Save Hickory Ground” protest against casino development by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians on the Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground in Wetumpka.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) and Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground filed a federal lawsuit in the U.S. District Court Dec. 12, 2012. According to Wayland Gray, coordinator for the rally, the lawsuit alleges that the excavation of MCN human remains and funerary objects from Hickory Ground violated the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

“We had our rally today for the Idle No More/Save Hickory Ground controversy,” Gray said. “We wanted to let everyone know what the Poarch Band of Creek Indians have done to Hickory Ground by desecrating and digging up 60 sets of remains and approximately seven chiefs out of the arbor to build a \$300 million casino.”

Attorney for Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground, Brendan Ludwick added, “The defendants have been served and their responses are



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground Mekko George Thompson and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger speak to Save Hickory Ground and Idle No More supporters at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center Jan. 26 during a media conference.

due next month, then the case will start heating up,” Ludwick said.

Ludwick was happy with the turnout at the rally.

“It was very nice to see so many members of your community and the nation’s leadership attend the rally,” Ludwick said. “Especially, all the kids wearing Save Hickory Ground T-shirts.”

The Southern Singers drum group performed during the event

and Native American filmmaker Sterlin Harjo, showed a 10-minute documentary he created for Hickory Ground.

“I came out to support Save Hickory Ground, Hickory Ground and Mekko George Thompson,” Harjo said. “I have been involved for a while now. Mekko Thompson asked me to make a short documentary for them. He [Thompson] knew without some media campaign, the attention

on the issue would not be there.”

Harjo added, “This documentary is only 10 minutes but we are wanting to expand this to about 30 minutes. We would like to start this as soon as possible.”

Mekko Thompson and MCN Principal Chief George Tiger also spoke at the conference.

“It is good to see all you people here,” Thompson said. “It shows me that you are all concerned. No matter what tribe you are, Cherokee, Choctaw - we are all one. We have to unite and be heard.”

Tiger added, “On Idle No More, this started in Canada. As Indian people, we don’t have borders, we help each other. Mekko [Thompson] is right. I have sat across the table from these people in Alabama [Poarch Band]. If they knew our ways and where they came from, we would not be having this issue today. If they knew their culture, we would not be having this issue today. Let’s not stop today for fighting what we believe in.”

For more information on Save Hickory Ground, visit: [www.save-hickoryground.org](http://www.save-hickoryground.org), or on Facebook at “Save Hickory Ground.”

To view the documentary, search “Back to Nature - The Battle For Hickory Ground” on YouTube.



# Creek author pens memoir

## Joy Harjo discusses her book, "Crazy Brave" and a recent trip to the Middle East

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — She recently released a book that reads like a movie and returned from a trip that many people criticized.

In her new book, "Crazy Brave" she wrote about her early life in a fashion that had many readers saying, 'Yes, I remember that, too.' Her memoir retraces dealing with a dysfunctional family, attending various schools, handling personal relationships and family.

Harjo is an accomplished author, poet, musician, artist and among the first inductees into the Mvskoke Hall of Fame.

Harjo's autobiographical writing recounts details of her life's journey, which many Indian women may recognize as being part of their own lives.

That, she said, was not an easy task, "It was difficult. I ran from it. I got the contract from Norton [W.W. Norton and Company] to write it 14 years before I turned the manuscript in. I had no idea I was that late. I had published other books and put three CDs in the time I was running away from

writing this story. To write this story, I had to go back into areas that I felt a lot of failure. It was a lot of fearful activity and there was a lot of shame around many of the events that happened. What's helped me write it is that I knew that it wasn't just my story, but it's the story of a lot of us."

Sharing those portions of her life was truly an exercise in baring her soul, “It was, but there was a larger purpose to it. That book was in several different forms through the years. Finally, when my editor said, ‘We need the book in,’ I thought I was only seven years late. I’m usually on time—yeah, right—but I usually am with my projects. I was running away. I realized when I finally sat down and said, ‘ok, this is it,’ I’ll write what needs to be written. As soon as I said that, the book started coming and it was things that I never wanted to tell anybody.”

For a writer to open up and discuss these type of experiences, Harjo felt that it was a matter of “becoming human.”

"I think the hardest thing for any of us human beings is to really study, study ourselves, our behavior, our actions and to learn what it means to be human. I think that right now, I'm on a path of having to reeducate myself of what it really means to be a human. In this

so-called civilized world, we've lost touch with our connections with each other, the earth, with talking with the animals, with having some sense of how to take care of each other and this incredible world and it's

friends and your companions in this life.”

This past year, Harjo was invited by Israel's University of Tel Aviv, to give a symposium. In agreeing to give that talk, Harjo stirred up strong anti-Israeli feelings that appeared on her

Facebook page and in emails.

Some of those messages came from unexpected places, “That was one of the most difficult moments of my life. I had had it up on my site, people knew I was going. The night before I left, somebody who knew I was going, emailed me and said, ‘Please don’t go. We have a cultural boycott going and please sign and don’t go. We do this to honor the Palestinian people.’”

I said, 'I don't believe in cultural boycotts,' Harjo asserted, "I believe that the way to growth or to understanding and to building something is speaking and the sharing of people and artists and students. Then another woman, a Hawaiian academic, said, 'please don't go.' Suddenly, there was a campaign started saying 'please ask Joy Harjo not to go,' because they said, 'she's killing Palestinian

babies, she's being a scab.' For the next few weeks, my Facebook, my emails were filled with some of the nastiest and most horrendous things that anybody has ever said to me."

Harjo explained she received the invitation to visit Israel from personal friends, some months before the latest round of disputes between Palestinian activists and the Israelis. The Creek writer explained that she had seen both sides of the issue years ago, during visits then.

Despite the controversy, Harjo refused to be drawn into taking sides. She felt that there was some positive benefit to the trip, "I felt like I made some very important connections over there, with Palestinian people and with Jewish people and Christian people. But I also felt I came to understand that the 'left' can be just as dangerous as the 'right.' Any position of entrenchment, whether it religious, cultural or otherwise that says, 'There is only one way to be a human being, there is only one path and you have to take it.'"

Harjo emphasized that such rigid beliefs run counter to her tribal Muscogee traditions, “That’s what I appreciate about the Muscogee way, the way I’ve been taught by the older people that it’s not the way we honor each other’s path, the paths are different. We honor them.”

## DOME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We've pretty much got all of our notices out," Wiley responded. "We already know who we think is responsible and we know who will work with us and who won't. The whole issue is you have to give them a reasonable opportunity to fix things. I would think within the next 30 to 45 days."

In an interview with the Muscogee Nation News, Wiley declined to elaborate further on the information he gave during the quarterly session.

"I really can't share any information I have because we could possibly litigate this. We are trying to work this out but I don't want to expose any of our strategies or plans publicly," he said.

Wiley did however reveal when he hopes the process needed to repair the multipurpose building would be completed.

"We're hopeful we can work this out and get these repairs done as soon as possible and hopefully in time to use the dome for the festival," he said.

The 11th annual Spring Celebration for Native youth and their families will be held March 19 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Beggs High School Dome in Beggs, Okla. The event was held at the MCN multipurpose building last year.

The multipurpose 'Mvskoke Dome' building, was closed April 10, 2012 per an executive order issued by Principal Chief George Tiger, citing safety issues due to the compromised structural integrity of the facility as the reason for the closing.

Former MCN Principal Chief A.D. Ellis dedicated the 20,000-square-foot facility, which cost \$4 million, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 24, 2011.

# RIVER SPIRIT *Casino*

P R E S E N T S

TICKETS  
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CLINT  
**BLACK**

MAR 1  
7 PM

TICKETS  
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Little  
**Anthony**  
*and the imperials*

MAR 15  
7 PM

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**JONNY LANG**

MAR 29  
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# Creek artist designs gorget for presidential inauguration

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Contributor

SANTA FE, N.M. — The second term of President Barack Obama began on Jan 22 with an inauguration ceremony and parade in Washington, D.C. Many MCN officials attended activities throughout the nation's capitol leading up to the event including MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

Tiger wore a gorget designed by Muscogee/Seminole artist Kenneth Johnson. Johnson lives in Santa Fe N.M., and has become world renowned in his metal smith designs. He said it was a great honor to design a special piece for the chief.

“Knowing that the Chief of one of the largest tribes in the country was wearing my work at an important national event was very gratifying,” said Johnson. “I knew that the piece had to look good from a distance and also meet the scrutiny of anyone who took the time to focus in and appreciate the detail on it.”

Johnson, who was asked to design the gorget last year, describes his inspiration and creation.

“When I make a jewelry design for a special occasion I like to get a sense of what the occasion calls for and then I focus my design efforts towards that event. The gorget in crescent or round form is an iconic symbol among our people. So when a leader requests one, I approach it as a canvas to display elements im-



Photo submitted/Kenneth Johnson  
Pictured is a gorget designed by Muscogee (Creek) / Seminole Silversmith Kenneth Johnson.

portant to the wearer. In this case, the Mvskoke tribal seal along with symbols of Mvskoke culture such as sun and fire, wind and water. These were the characters in my narrative in metal. Each gorget pattern is different.”

Johnson has also created jewelry for other leaders and celebrities including former MCN Chief Perry Beaver, the late Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Lynrd Skynrd guitarist Rickey Medlocke.

Johnson admits that he enjoys creating silver and coral bracelets for newborn babies in his family the most and also for fundraising efforts. “Last August I coordinated the creation of a special collaborative silver and turquoise necklace from 13 artists to benefit the Santa Fe Indian Market organization (SWAIA). We raised \$60,000 at auction with the sale of that one special necklace. I enjoyed seeing that project develop to become bigger than the sum of its individual parts.”

# Okla. Indian education director sees success

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Oklahoma Director for Indian Education, Dwight Pickering, called his first year as the first person to occupy the newly created office, “pretty successful.” Oklahoma State Department of Education Director Janet Barresi chose Pickering Oct. 13, 2012.

“I got to look at a lot of things here at the state department of Indian Education section,” he said, “In working at where we’re going, what we’re going to be able to do and working with tribes, as well as school districts and developing that partnership with the state Department of Education.”

He pointed to new grants being implemented to assist two tribes in their plans, “Our latest thing is a ‘step grant,’ which is a state-tribal education partnership. That grant is a million dollar grant. It was awarded to the Chickasaw Nation and the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe, who will partner with the Okla. State Department of Education in helping to administer the federal grant that school districts receive.”

The two grants are among only five awarded nationally, he recalled.

A data-sharing program on Choctaw students is a recent project, he said. The program will allow the tribe to examine successes and deficiencies among Choctaw students. The data will serve as a basis for development of special needs programs. The data will then be made available to other Okla. tribes for their use.

One of the early goals of Superintendent Barresi was the addition of more Indian history and culture to school curricula. Pickering said that idea will top the 2013 agenda, “That will be this year’s assignment. That is something I’m laying the groundwork for to start looking at pulling people to start developing this curriculum or resources for our school districts in the state of Oklahoma to have an opportunity to get the ‘correct information’ or traditional information about our tribes that they can use in their schools. I know that this is a big project so it’s going to take a lot of time and a lot of people and resources across the state in Indian education to develop this.”

Pickering predicted that effort would begin in March at the statewide Johnson-O’Malley (JOM) education conference in Tulsa, Okla.

Convincing state educators to accept such a plan will be a major challenge, Pickering added, “We’ll just take it as it comes. I think there’s a real need for this. You know, when there’s change it’s sometimes difficult but there’s always good things that come out of change, too. That’s what we’re hoping for.”

Another project Pickering is hoping will become part of the state curricula will be tribal languages, “We are working on providing a pathway for the tribal languages to be taught in the public schools. We’re in the final stages of that and our legal department is looking at the information we need to provide to make that pathway to provide that instruction on tribal languages, not only the Creek language but all languages that are available.”

Pickering is supportive of the work of the four tribal colleges in the state. Since the institutions deal with higher education, there is currently no state liaison for those schools. He would like to see such a position added to their responsibilities but cautioned that they already had their agenda full.

Boarding schools in the state present an issue that he said, has not been a priority, “I’m not sure on that. I’ve just started to scratch the surface on that. As a matter of fact, I’m going to meet with the Riverside Indian School Board. They’ve asked me to come. I don’t know what their interests are, other than, I want to work with them and see this partnership between Bureau of Indian Affairs schools and the state department of education. I’m open to see whatever they want to do to enhance their education opportunities there at the boarding schools.”

Funding for his office is limited. So far, Pickering is operating on a minimum budget. He is able to travel to meet the needs of his office. He is the only staff member for his position.

He will be in Tulsa, Okla., March 4, for the JOM meeting. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will be hosting that conference at the Renaissance Hotel.



## The Summer University Program of the Indian University of North America

A partnership between The Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation and the University of South Dakota.

The 8 1/2-week program begins on Saturday, June 8 and ends on Friday, August 9, 2013.

Applications are being accepted now.

For more information visit:  
[www.usd.edu/summerschool/crazy-horse.cfm](http://www.usd.edu/summerschool/crazy-horse.cfm)



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Photo submitted/Dwight Pickering  
Oklahoma Director for Indian Education Dwight Pickering was appointed to his position by Department of Education Director Janet Barresi in October 2012.



# Tiger discusses first year on Mvskoke Radio Q & A

## Principal Chief George Tiger discusses the MCN Dome, media and TERO during live call-in show

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — He’s been in office for one year and Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, George Tiger joined Mvskoke Radio, Jan. 16, to discuss his first 12 months in office.

During that year, the tribe faced several challenges such as the Kialegee casino controversy and the closure of the Claude Cox Omniplex dome. In the economic arena, Tiger expanded the tribes’ business portfolio with major real estate purchases and the signing of a tobacco compact with the state of Oklahoma.

Before taking questions, Tiger’s opening comments focused on his first year in office, “It’s not really my administration. I always look at things in terms of teamwork. It’s a tribal government function and the first year I feel was very successful. One of the first things we needed to do was to establish a very solid working rapport with our National Council. That’s important. If we can’t work together, we would not be able to accomplish a lot of things. We were able to work together. We always agree that we can disagree. There were a number of things in the first year that happened because we were able to work together.”

Q. You were working to bring a TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance) to our tribe. It is now actively soliciting employees and contractors. Where is it now?

A. TERO is a goal I wanted to achieve. Being able to work with the Council, we did have legislation. They approved the TERO concept. In addition, they approved the budget that was necessary to implement the program. We already have a number of tribal members that have businesses who are very excited about TERO. We’re in the process of trying to finalize and refine the process in being able to do business with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. From a ‘Creek first’ type of process, then all other tribes. So, we’re excited about it. We have had representatives from our TERO office going to national meetings. That’s allowed us to let people know that the MCN is implementing the TERO program. We’ve also had other tribes in our areas willing to help us any way they can to establish our TERO office.

Q. You mentioned an ‘Employee Rights Office.’ Where are we with that?

A. I believe that tribal employees should have a work environment where they don’t have to be scared of repercussions on some issues they may bring to the forefront. I don’t think it’s fair to employees whenever there’s that type of atmosphere. We are in the process through TERO to come up with the programs for the Employee Rights Office. I can say this without hesitation, I don’t think our employees should be scared

about repercussions about anything that they may want to bring to their supervisor.

I think we need to get rid of that stigma, if you will, of looking over your shoulders. One of the first things we did was, we told all employees at the mass meetings with our employees, if they feel like they needed to speak to a Council representative or any elected officials, they have that ability and they have that right to. Many of our employees are tribal members and they were tribal members first before they were employees, so they have the right to talk to their elected officials without fear of repercussions from anyone.

We need to be their advocates and not to be against them. I think we’ve done that in our first year in office. We’re going to be presenting a statute for consideration by the National Council.

Q. In regards to the freedom of the press, where are we in that situation? Will we see that this year?

A. I would feel comfortable in saying that you will. Again, it’s one of those situations where I’m an advocate for it, because that’s my background as well. I think that the tribal resources that we have in communications should be given the opportunity to tell all sides. Freedom of the press is very important to me. We’re looking at a ‘free press act’ that we want to propose to the National Council for consideration, so I think that’s something we’ll probably see this year. Again, we have looked at other tribes that have this and it’s a matter of refining it so everybody can feel comfortable with it.

Q. One of the significant events we saw was the signing of the tobacco compact with the state. What are your thoughts on that?

A. When I asked for a good faith negotiations with the state, that’s exactly what we got. In the past, I couldn’t really say that because it was dictation rather than negotiation. We worked very aggressively with Steve Mullins, the legal counsel for Gov. [Mary] Fallin along with some of our tribal members who are part of the legislature here in the state of Oklahoma. We signed the compact back in August. Since we’ve signed that compact, I’ve been getting reports on the improvements in revenue coming back into the accounts, into our treasury. That allows us the opportunity to continue providing and expanding our social service programs, which we’ve done in our first year.

We negotiated for Creek Nation, we didn’t negotiate for anyone else. In the past, when we negotiated compacts, the state wanted one compact to fit everybody. Unfortunately, it just doesn’t happen. Since the compact has been signed, we have had an increase in our revenues.

Q. How about working with the Republican-controlled state government?

A. I served as a liaison and lobbyist with other tribes in Oklahoma City and I visited with the Governor’s staff, House and Senate representatives. So with the legislative calendar year getting ready to start off, every year it’s an educational process for tribes here

in Oklahoma because you have new members who don’t know anything about tribes, how important tribes are to Oklahoma, how much of an impact tribes have on the economy in Oklahoma. What I like is that we have a lot of the legislators who are members of tribes here.

It’s really been a good year in terms of working with the state of Oklahoma. It’s not going to be perfect, but we can strive for perfection in many areas.

Q. What about the dome? What’s happening there? We had an emergency closure and then we’ve heard not much of anything?

A. As we came into this administration, one of the things we heard was about the safety of the omniplex dome was in question. We had a group come in, some engineers from out-of-state that had no interest one way or another that were checking for safety. They apprised us that it was not a safe building, there were some things that needed to be taken care of.

Once I got that report, I issued an executive order to close the dome until such point in time that the safety issues could be addressed and taken care of. Only at that time, would we open that dome.

During the interim, the National Council, with their concern for the safety issue felt like whoever built the dome had to be addressed in terms of the safety issue. So, it was determined that maybe we need to look at maybe filing an insurance claim on that whole issue.

A special prosecutor was hired through our attorney general’s office at the request of the National Council. That’s where we’re at right now. We’ve got engineers coming in and making determinations on what it may cost to get it back to where it is safe for our people to use.

Personally, I’d like to see it open before our festival in June.

Q. You’ve done some intriguing things with the Tulsa city government in finding ways to work together. Other city governments?

A. Back in April of last year, the tribe was able to procure Riverwalk at a sheriff’s auction. It’s done wonders in terms of solidifying and opening up avenues in terms of working with local governments. They saw that move as a nation on the move.

When that happened, we started having things like having the Tulsa City Council coming to our offices and talking about other things that we could do working in collaboration to make it a ‘win-win’. The other city governments heard my message about ‘we share communities’ regardless of where it may be within the eight to ten counties within our jurisdiction. I think it’s time that we start sharing resources.

Just like the city of Okmulgee. We had a meeting with last week

with City Manager [Bob] Baxter. So we’re working to try and strengthen the government-to-government, regardless of whether it’s on the level of a municipality, county, state or federal level.

It’s going good. I know each month, in terms of other government that want to work with us. I know we have a good working rapport with county governments because of the roads programs we have.

Q. The Hickory Ground issue has sparked strong emotions. Where are we with that issue?

A. Unfortunately, the nation has to take a stand when it comes to our sacred rights, our sacred properties, whether it be here in Oklahoma or back in the sacred homelands of Alabama or Georgia. Hickory Ground is very near and dear to my heart because that’s my ceremonial grounds.

Mekko [George] Thompson and his warriors have been very aggressive in getting the word out about how this needs to be addressed.

Some of the things we knew from the outset were that the Poarch Band just doesn’t quite adhere to our traditions and culture in a way that they see it. I think, if there’s an obstacle, that’s the biggest one. There are ways that have been handed down through generations of how we take care of our ancestors that are buried back at our motherland.

Unfortunately, to have those remains dug up and just put on a shelf is not our way. Even though they [the Poarch Band] feel like they were reinterred in a way that they felt was adequate, we know that it wasn’t. Traditionally and culturally, there are ways that we take care of those things.

I do know that the National Council, as I have, has gone on record opposing this casino expansion over the remains of our people. I believe that there’s litigation that’s been filed and we’re following that very closely.

Q. In Broken Arrow, the Kialegee and their developers were trying to salvage their casino project, this time under MCN control. Where are we now?

A. I’ve talked to some of the council members. They’ve voted to not do it at this time. I think the priority for the council is the expansion of River Spirit [casino].

Q. Have we made peace with the town [Kialegee]?

A. Kialegee are Creek tribal members as well. As a tribal leader, you have to look out for the interest of Kialegee as well as Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I don’t feel like right now there’s any bad feelings of the Kialegee towards the MCN. We still provide social services to those who are eligible from Kialegee because they are tribal members. Certainly we want to look at, in the future, some kind of economic development that will increase services for everyone.

Q. During that controversy a lot of Oklahoma citizens became educated to the unique governmental situation of tribes in this state because of the media coverage. Did we really educate the non-Native citizens about tribal sovereignty?

A. I think it was handled

badly. That’s my perspective, maybe because I’ve been in the industry. I think they were pitting two tribal entities against one another. I think that’s never a winner for anyone. I think they were looking at it from the non-Indians’ viewpoint, from the citizens against casinos perspective. I think there was, maybe, just a ‘light hint’ of racism because of some of the things that were said.

In particular, when it went to federal court, there was a determination made by a judge without any questions or answers from the MCN, tribal citizens, elected officials or anyone from Kialegee. That whole issue was determined by so-called witnesses who were supposed to be expert. There were questions brought up about those persons who was supposed to be an expert.

To me, I was very adamant when I made my statement that it would be hard, without an Indian person being given an opportunity to educate the judge and even the attorneys about the unique relationships between the tribal town and the MCN, about unique relationships about trust restricted property—those types of things were never addressed adequately.

To a large degree, that thing was not handled well in how the media presented it.

Q. (Caller question) Where are you with the topic of international relations and representation?

A. I’ve always been an advocate that tribes should have a seat at the United Nations. I truly believe that the international level is something that tribes need to look at, in terms of everything that has to do with indigenous people. I have met with some people from the international level. We talked about how we could address some of these issues together. The MCN could be at the forefront in doing this. I am an advocate.

Q. Would you share an update of the new projects like Riverwalk, the Okmulgee Country Club and the Expo naming deal?

A. With Riverwalk, we’re putting things in place that will allow us to be a little more aggressive in getting tenants there. The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise has been stepping it up. They’ve been a big part in terms of cleanup and operating the restaurant at the country club. We have some plans to look at some housing facilities around the country club area for veterans. That’s still a very doable thing. We’re looking at financing for something like that.

We’re looking at whether or not to keep it as an 18-hole golf course or going back to the original nine-hole course.

As far as the naming rights for the Expo Center, I do have a meeting in Tulsa to discuss that matter. We felt like we’ve been penalized for something that we have no control over. That’s an issue that we want to address and see as to whether or not that might be leverage for us to negotiate the naming rights as it is now.

In addition, I want to let people know, that in the first year, we done a lot of things in terms of cutting back on costs for insurance for our employees, cutting back on costs for some other areas, even on how we’re addressing the cost of duplication equipment, on cutting back on using outside sources for our IT [Information Technology].



# MCN Department of Health releases January influenza report

Media Release  
MCN Department of Health

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health is committed to educating the community members about the benefits of flu immunizations.

In order to help citizens understand the importance of how influenza is affecting Muscogee (Creek) Nation communities, Statistical Officer/Epidemiologist Tiana Woodward coordinated with all public health nurses and laboratory staff at each health center to compile information from each facility relating to influenza testing, positive influenza cases by gender, positive influenza-like illness (ILI) cases by gender, total number of ILI and influenza cases by age group and a listing of zip codes.

Influenza-like illness is defined as a fever greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit and a cough and/or sore throat (in the absence of a known cause other than influenza).

A summary of each report for Jan. 7-17 and Jan. 18-25 is below:

A. Influenza testing graph

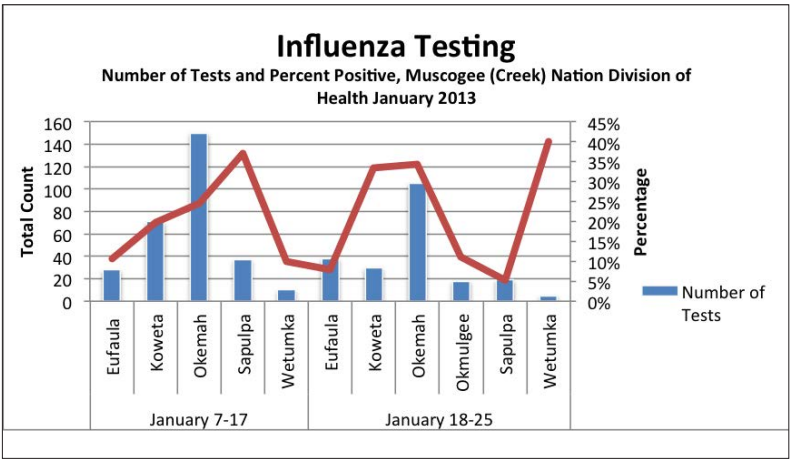
displays information for the reporting period Jan. 18-25. MCN Department of Health performed 196 total influenza tests. Of the tests performed, 55 percent (53) were positive for influenza. This graph exhibits the breakdown of tests and percent positive for each facility that reported.

B. Positive influenza graph displays the distribution of positive influenza at each reporting facility between male and female patients for Jan. 18-25.

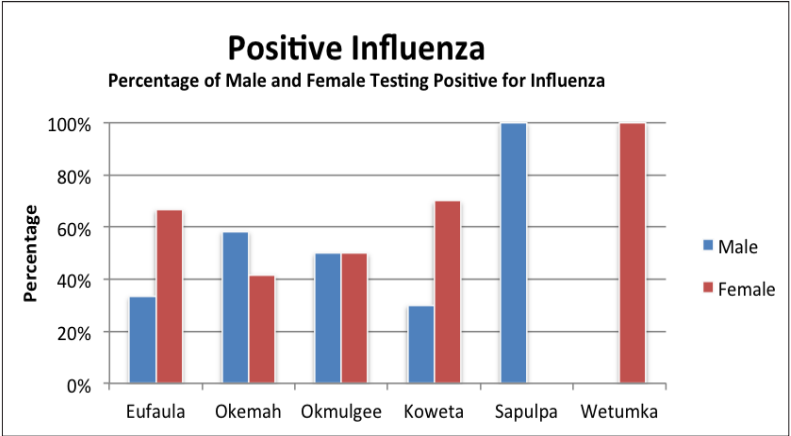
C. Positive influenza-like illness (ILI) graph displays the distribution of positive influenza-like illness at each reporting facility between male and female patients Jan. 18-25.

D. Total number of ILI and influenza cases graph displays the distribution of positive influenza-like illness and influenza for each age group Jan. 18-25.

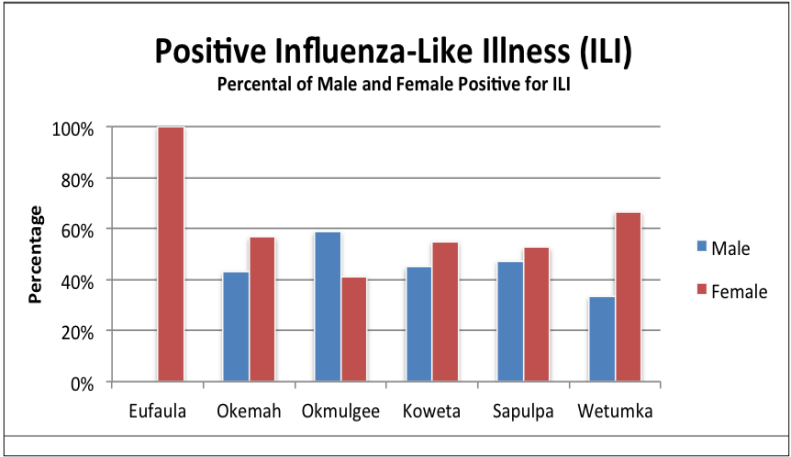
For more information, please contact the MCN Department of Health at 918-756-4333 or go to the website at [www.creekhealth.org](http://www.creekhealth.org).



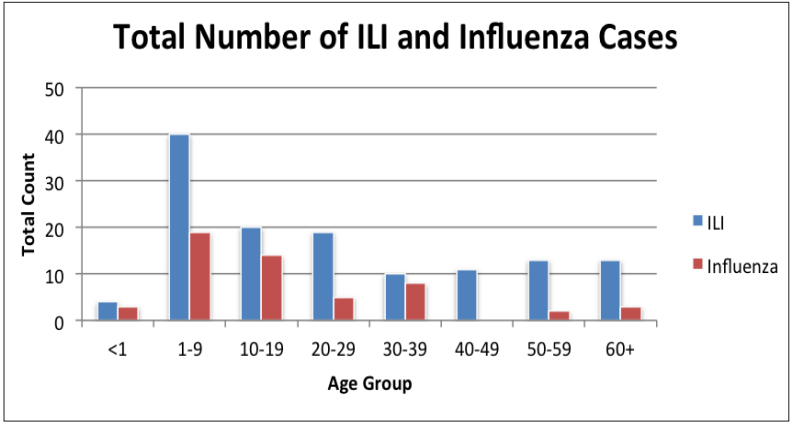
Graphics submitted/MCN Department of Health  
Graph A: MCN Department of Health performed 196 total influenza tests. Of the tests performed, 55 percent (53) were positive for influenza.



Graph B: Positive influenza graph displays the distribution of positive influenza at each reporting facility between male and female patients for Jan. 18-25.



Graph C: Positive influenza-like illness (ILI) graph displays the distribution of positive influenza-like illness at each reporting facility between male and female patients Jan. 18-25.



Graph D: Total number of ILI and influenza cases graph displays the distribution of positive influenza-like illness and influenza for each age group Jan. 18-25.

## Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement

### What is This About?

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

**The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.**

### Am I Included?

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
  - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
  - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government’s records as of September 30, 2009.

### Do I Need to File a Claim Form?

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877, postmarked by **March 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

### How Much Money Can I Get?

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

**For a claim form or to update your contact information:**

**Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109**  
**or Visit: [www.IndianTrust.com](http://www.IndianTrust.com)**

### FEBRUARY is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

## 2013 TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION ARTWORK CONTEST



**THEME:** Artwork and themes should be directed to a teen audience and bring awareness to the problem of teen dating violence as well as encourage healthy relationships and the safe use of technology. Possible themes include: speaking out against dating violence, qualities of a healthy relationship, positive ways teens can use technology in relationships, and helping a friend who is being abused. For ideas and information about teen dating violence and healthy relationships, go to [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org).

**ELIGIBILITY:** Youth ages 12-18 who are enrolled members of a Federally recognized tribe.

**PRIZES:** Grand Prize: \$200.00 2 Runners Up: \$100.00 each

**DEADLINE:** All entries must be received by **February 28, 2013**.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** Winners will be chosen based on the use of creativity and how well the artwork and messages bring about awareness to dating violence, healthy relationships, and the safe use of technology.

Please visit the [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov) for contest rules and registration forms. For questions or more information contact Mitzi Pope at [mpope@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:mpope@mcn-nsn.gov) or (918) 732-7892.

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ULTIMATE ALTIMA - FEBRUARY 23RD



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2013

## GLENPOOL TO HOST BENEFIT STOMP DANCE FEB. 16

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A benefit stomp dance for B.J. Jackson will be held Feb. 16 beginning at 7 p.m., at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center.

For more information, contact Tom Barnett at 918-804-1050.

## SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL SET FOR FEB. 25

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Senior Services Senior Services Department will attend Senior Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol Feb. 25.

The monthly MCN seniors meeting will be held in the MCN National Council chambers in the Mound Building March 6 at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact MCN Senior Services at 918-732-7765.

## MVSKOKE RADIO CALL-IN SHOW LOOKS FOR BEST WILD ONION RECIPES FEB. 20

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Wild onions! Just the name conjures up the smell of frying onions with eggs, frybread, and the goodies that go with them. They are the subject of the next hour-long call-in Mvskoke Radio, Feb. 20.

Featured guest will be experienced wild onion cook, Daria Hicks.

Join hosts Gerald Wofford and Gary Fife for Mvskoke Radio, Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m., on KOKL AM 1240 AM, in Okmulgee, Okla., to talk about recipes, upcoming dinners, where to look for wild onions, stories and memories of this spring-

time delicacy. Call 918-756-3646 with your comments and recipes.

## CREEK HYMN SINGING SET FOR FEB. 21

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A monthly Creek hymn singing is held at the Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee, Okla., every third Thursday of each month, from 7-9 p.m. The next event will be on Feb. 21. All are invited to sing and fellowship.

For more information, contact Tecumseh Jackson at 918-752-0952.

## MCN CR&D TO HOST COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION SUMMIT MARCH 2

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Department of Community Research and Development (CR&D) will host a Community Revitalization Summit March 2 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Jenks High School Oval in the Math and Science Building in Jenks, Okla. CR&D Manager Sarai Geary will present findings from a needs analysis and MCN Principal Chief George Tiger will present Outstanding Community Leadership Awards to the MCN communities.

For more information, contact MCN CR&D at 918-732-7972.

## SALT CREEK UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER MARCH 2

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Salt Creek United Methodist Church will host their annual all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner March 2 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center.

Adults are \$10 and children 10 and under are \$5. Carry-out orders

are \$10. For vendor space, contact Doug Scott at 405-379-3125.

## OU TO HOST AMERICAN INDIAN SYMPOSIUM MARCH 2

NORMAN, Okla. — The University of Oklahoma (OU) Native American Studies and College of Law will host the annual symposium on American Indians March 7 at the OU College of Law in the Bell Auditorium.

The symposium is titled, "Overcoming Barriers: Resolving Conflict in Indian Country," and will focus on resolution of tribal conflict through traditional means. Registration fee is \$25 and includes lunch for the day.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Terri McKnight at tmcknight@ou.edu or by phone at 405-325-2312.

## BIG CUSSETAH UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER MARCH 16

MORRIS, Okla. — Big Cussetah United Methodist Church will host their annual wild onion dinner March 16 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the church located at 20554 Prairie Bell Rd., in Morris, Okla.

Adults are \$10 and children 10 and under are \$5. Carry-out orders are \$10.

For more information, contact Miley Hargis at 918-342-3637.

## LITTLE CUSSETAH UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER MARCH 30

SCHULTER, Okla. — Little Cussetah United Methodist Church will host their annual all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner March 30

from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the church located in Schuler, Okla., on Hwy 75 between Henryetta and Okmulgee. Menu includes wild onions, salt meat, frybread, grape dumplings and more.

Adults are \$10 and children 12 and under are \$5. Carry-out orders are \$10.

For directions or more information, visit the Facebook page (Little Cussetah UMC) or contact Paul Tecumseh at 918-270-0231 or Karen King at 918-652-5356.

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Applications for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are now being accepted through March 31.

The MCN SYEP is a summer work experience and life skills development opportunity for youth, ages 16-21.

- Native American youth including all federally recognized tribes
- Ages 16-21; must be 16 by May 31 and cannot turn 22 before July 27
- Must reside and work within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries
- All non-Creeks must meet federal income guidelines
- Must submit complete application and required documentation prior to the deadline
- Must attend orientation

For more information, contact MCN Employment & Training Administration Youth Works Program at 918-732-7777 or 800-482-1979 ext. 7777.

## MCN Senior Services offers free firewood to senior citizens

**Media Release**  
MCN Senior Services

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Senior Services is offering free firewood for MCN senior citizens ages 55 and up.

- Age requirement waived for ceremonial grounds and all Indian churches within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries
  - Will split wood and deliver although pickups are preferred
  - Pick-up location is the tribal complex in Okmulgee
  - Delivery is available within MCN boundaries
  - Please provide name, address and phone number when calling for delivery
  - Must sign a release of liability form
  - Must provide citizen roll number
- To schedule a delivery or pick-up, contact Randy or Chris Harjo at 918-732-7731 or MCN Senior Services Manager Dave Dunson at 918-732-7699.



# ATTENTION MUSCOGEE WW II VETERANS

01 February 2013

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) is hosting an Honor Flight this Spring. The trip will be the week of 21-26 April 2013, a 6 day and 5 night stay. The Honor Flight is open to all Muscogee WW II Veterans. The WW II Veteran is also allowed to bring one guest. The Honor Flight will take the Muscogee WW II Veterans from Okmulgee in our tribal bus to Tulsa, and then to Washington, D.C. via airline. The Veterans and their guests will be visiting memorials in Washington, D.C. and surrounding areas.

The purpose of this trip is to introduce our Muscogee WW II Veterans to a world of monuments and memorials that they helped inspire. The stops on the trip include, the National WW II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima Memorial, National Museum of the American Indian and the Marine Corps National Museum. Of our living WW II Veterans thus far verified:

**COON, Phillip USA**  
**DIXON, Mamie WAAC**  
**FISH, Eddie USAAF**  
**HARRY, Simon USA**  
**HAYES, Raymond USCG**  
**KNIGHT, Willis USMC**  
**MCGIRT, Raymond USA**

**GORDON, John USA**  
**MCINTOSH, Thomas USN**  
**MOORE, Tom USA**  
**ROBERTS, James USN**  
**WIND, Daniel USA**  
**YAHOLA, Miller USA**

Those that want to take this trip, please respond to the Veterans Affairs Office by 15 March 2013.



**If there are any other Muscogee WW II Veterans that have not been listed above, and would like to attend, or just know more about the trip, please contact:**

**Ken Davis at (918) 732-7739 or Brooke Smith at (918) 732-7744.**





# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## Gray arrested during religious demonstration

**Muscogee (Creek) Nation negotiates bond for Hickory Ground demonstrator**

**Sterling Cosper / MNN Reporter**  
**Jason Salsman / Multimedia Supervisor**  
WETUMPKA, Ala. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Principal Chief George Tiger along with members of his cabinet and Brendan Ludwick, attorney for the MCN Hickory Ground Tribal Town, traveled to Wetumpka, Ala., Feb. 19, to post bond for MCN citizen Wayland Gray.

Gray was arrested for trespassing along with two other members of Hickory Ground Feb. 15, while attempting to pray for their ancestors who were exhumed from the expansion site for a casino belonging to the Poach Band of Creek Indians (PBCI) in Wetumpka, Ala.

A Cherokee man who accompanied the tribal town members was booked with them in the Elmore County Jail. Several PBCI citizens also traveled onto the site for the ceremony but were not arrested at that time.



Muskogee (Creek) Nation citizen and Hickory Ground Tribal Town member Wayland Gray was arrested Feb. 15, while attempting to pray for ancestors of his tribal town on a casino expansion site belonging to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Hickory Ground members Mike Harjo and Michael Deo along with the Cherokee man who identified himself as “Maggot” were released Feb. 15, while Gray was held on the additional charge of making a terrorist threat.

Gray was released on \$15,000

bond Feb. 19, which was negotiated from a \$30,000 cash-only bond. He flew back with Tiger to Oklahoma the same day.

Attorney Bill Baxley, who was chosen by Ludwick to represent Hickory Ground in the state of Alabama because he is licensed to practice law there, negotiated the

bond.

Shortly before Gray's bond was posted, a press conference was held by Tiger in front of the U.S District Courthouse in Montgomery, Ala.

SEE GRAY - 2

**MARCH 1, 2013**  
**VOL. 43, ISSUE 5**  
**"TASAHCUCE"**  
**LITTLE SPRING**



### MCN National Council holds regular session Feb. 23

**Rebecca Landsberry**  
*MNN Editor*  
OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is a summary of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council regular session held Feb. 23 at the Mound Building Auditorium. Rep. Adam Jones III was excused and 17 representatives were present.

- TR13-008 Authorizing principal chief, through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Department of Health, to apply for a special exception from the Sapulpa Board of adjustment. Rep. Eddie LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-020 Authorizing the participation in a nationwide elder needs assessment. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-021 Authorizing principal chief to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance for funds to assist with the construction of a regional transitional living facility. Rep. Pearl Thomas and Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-022 Authorizing principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the nation and Kialegee Tribal Town for the transitional living facility and re-entry services of the MCN Reintegration Program. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-023 Authorizing principal chief to execute a letter of agreement with the National Indian Health Board Regional Extension Center for training related to establishing an electronic health records system. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

SEE SESSION - 2

## MCN Office of Child Support Enforcement adopts paperless payment system

**Payments will be distributed on debit card or direct deposit beginning April 1**

**Rebecca Landsberry**  
*MNN Editor*  
OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Office of Child Support Enforcement will no longer mail paper checks to customers beginning April 1. Instead, all MCN child support payments will be credited onto pre-paid debit cards or be directly deposited into customers' personal checking or savings accounts.

Customers will have access to their child support payments through the tribal card and the option of adding payroll, government benefits or any other regular payments deposited to



Graphic submitted/MCN Office of Child Support Enforcement  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation child support payments will be credited to smiOne Visa pre-paid debit cards, replacing the paper check system beginning April 1.

the card, which will be issued in the mail before April 1.

MCN Office of Child Support Enforcement Financial Specialist Carol Williams said the card may be used as an alternative to a bank account for the receipt of tribal benefits.

“Customers can use the card for anything after we issue it to them. So, in the future, if our customers receive benefits from other programs, those funds could be deposited on their card,” Williams said.

According to program informa-


tion, the smiONE Tribal Visa Prepaid Cards will eliminate the possibility of lost or stolen checks, check-cashing fees and postal service delays. Cards are reloadable and may be used at merchant locations wherever Visa debit cards are accepted, including stores, online and by phone.

Customers may withdraw cash at 935,000 ATMs worldwide, wherever the Visa brand is displayed. One free ATM withdrawal per card load will be granted. They may also obtain cash back from a merchant when making a purchase.

MCN Office of Child Support Enforcement Director Susan Arkeketa said the program is the first of its kind to be implemented by one of the largest tribes in Oklahoma.

SEE DEBIT - 2





MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS STAFF

MANAGER  
CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE

EDITOR  
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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

SESSION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

• TR 13-024 Authorizing principal chief to submit an Indian Community Development Block Grant application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a tribal community food distribution building projects. Reps. Kara Medina, Lena Wind, Greene and Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 13-025 Committing three acres of tribal land for the purpose of construction a tribal community food distribution facility located in Coweta, Okla. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 13-026 Authorizing principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with the city of Checotah, Okla., for the maintenance of a walking trail built by the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 13-027 Authorizing principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with the city of Morris, Okla., and the Morris Public Schools for the maintenance of a walking trail built by the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Rep. David Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 13-028 Authorizing principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with Creek County, Okla., for the maintenance of a certain tribal transportation route known as Tuskegee Road. Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 13-030 Confirming the nomination of George Thompson for appointment to the MCN Supreme Court. Reps. David Hill, Shirlene Ade, Sam Alexander, Robert Hufft, Adam Jones III, Thomas Yahola, Greene and Proctor sponsored the resolution,

which passed 15-1 with LaGrone voting against it.

• TR 13-031 Confirming the nomination of Dan Kirby to serve as the Athletic Commissioner. Hill and Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-010 Authorizing a \$50,000 donation to the National Indian Education Association. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the law, which was postponed for 90 days 16-0.

• NCA 13-015 Authorizing a donation of \$38,675.19 (amended from \$39,568) to financially assist the Hughes County Conservation District for the purchase of equipment. Yahola sponsored the law, which failed 6-10 with Barnett, Coachman, Hill, Hufft, Johnson, Medina, Nichols, Proctor, Randolph and Thomas voting against it.

• NCA 13-024 Authorizing a special appropriation for \$4,200.32 to the Broken Arrow United Indian Methodist Church. Randolph sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-031 Amending Article VII, Section 2 to include an additional justice to the MCN Supreme Court. Yahola and Greene sponsored the law, which passed 17-0.

• NCA 13-032 Authorizing an appropriation of \$3,235 to the MCN Community Research and Development Department's FY 2013 budget to fund costs associated with hosting the community revitalization summit. Greene sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-034 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,351 (amended from \$4,601) to a MCN citizen. Alexander sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-035 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$3,800 to financially assist a MCN student. Alexander and Medina sponsored the law, which passed 15-1 with Hill voting against it.

• NCA 13-036 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$250 to financially assist a MCN citizen. Proctor and Coachman sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-037 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$75,000 to the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association. Hill, Alexander, Hufft, Nichols, Proctor and Wind sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-038 Amending MCNCA Title 18, Section 2-501 entitled, "Establishment of the Post Graduate Education and Scholarship Revolving Fund." Alexander and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-039 Authorizing the expenditure of the United States Department of Transportation – Federal Transit Administration Program grant funds for the MCN Transit Program. Nichols sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-040 Appropriating \$7,500 matching funds with the Indian Health Service to Rural Water District #10, Muskogee County, Okla., for a pump. LaGrone sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-042 Amending Article VI, Section 2; and Subsection A of the MCN Constitution to delete at-large voting and at-large representation and replacing it with eligible registered district voting and representation pertaining to the MCN National Council. Yahola, Ade, Greene and LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-4 with Barnett, Hill, Hufft and Randolph voting against it.

• NCA 13-043 Amending NCA 12-195, a law of the MCN approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2013 and providing for appropriations. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-045 Clarifying commissions to fill vacancies and providing structure and guidelines. Alexander sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-046 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$116,855 to Holdenville Indian Community. Yahola, Ade, Medina, Thomas and Wind sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-047 Appropriating \$50,000 to be used to conducts and electric utility feasibility study. Hill sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-048 Appropriating \$40,000 to be used for the development of a strategic energy plan for the MCN. Hill sponsored the law, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-049 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,367 (amended from \$4,734) to financially assist an MCN citizen. Alexander sponsored the law, which passed 14-2 with LaGrone and Hill voting against it.

• NCA 13-051 Authorizing a donation of \$4,500 (amended from \$9,000) to a MCN citizen to financially assist with a mission trip to the Ukraine. Ade, Medina and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-3 with Proctor, Hill and LaGrone voting against it.

• NCA 13-052 Authorizing a \$20,595 (amended from \$36,250) donation to Wilson School I-7. Thomas and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-053 Authorizing a special appropriation for \$2,400 for unpaid funeral services of an MCN citizen. Randolph, Greene and Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 13-054 Authorizing a donation to financially assist an MCN citizen and a media representative to attend the Ghost Soldiers of Bataan & Hellships Memorial Tour. Randolph, Wind and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

Customers can manage their tribal card accounts and obtain fee information at [www.smionecard.com](http://www.smionecard.com). The website allows customers to view transaction activity, obtain balance information, set up email and/or text message alerts for daily or weekly balance information, pay bills, request companion cards for family members or friends and transfer money to companion cards.

"We're pretty excited about this new development and we're ready to implement it. It will improve services for customers," Arkeketa said.

If customers do not wish to receive child support payments on the tribal debit card, they must complete an Authorization Agreement for Automatic Credits form and return it to the MCN Office of Child Support by March 10. If the form is not received by this date, customers will automatically be enrolled in the debit card program.

In order to apply for child support enforcement services, parents or children must be members or eligible for membership in the MCN or members of or eligible for membership in a federally recognized tribe and living within the MCN jurisdictional boundaries. Children must be living in the home of the custodial parent.

For more information, visit [www.mcnchildsupport.com](http://www.mcnchildsupport.com) or call 918-295-0800 Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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GRAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I came back because the family of Wayland Gray and tribal members feel that this is something the Nation needed to do and I want to take Mr. Gray home this evening to his parents and his loved ones," Tiger said.

Tiger addressed the charges against Gray.

"One individual, Wayland Gray, was arrested for terrorist threats. We don't know what extent they may be," he said. "When we talk about terrorist threats, whatever nature they may be, we consider those very serious. We feel like those things have to go through the process...and those are things that are going to have to work out in court."

Reports indicate that any charges filed against Gray and the three other men will be challenged under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Gray's charge of making a terrorist threat is a felony. Reports indicated the allegation stemmed from a statement Gray made during the time of his arrest that, 'He would be back to pray for his ancestors after this place was torn down.'

There is a federal lawsuit filed on behalf of the MCN and Hickory Ground Tribal Town against officials of the PBCI for their oversight of a casino development project in Wetumpka, Ala. on the original location of the Hickory Ground Tribal Town.

The lawsuit, which is still pending in the U.S. Court for the Middle District of Alabama, claims that the PBCI as the defendants excavated 57 sets of human remains that belong to ancestors of both the MCN and the PBCI, which the MCN claims is a violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.



SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

Every Thursday from 10am - 2pm.

Starting at 10am seniors actively playing with their White Buffalo Card in a machine will be eligible for one of 3 drawings held every half hour from 10am-2pm for up to \$50 credits on their player's card. Players will also get a \$10 match play on the White Buffalo Club Card and a ticket for a complimentary lunch at the Casino Grill.

CREEK NATION Casino

DUCK CREEK

This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee Creek Nation Office of Public Gaming.



# Singer remains close to her family and tribe

## Muscogee (Creek) singer Jamie Coon prepares to release her sophomore album

**Sterling Cosper**  
*MNN Reporter*

LOS ANGELES — Singer Jamie Coon moved from her hometown of Okemah, Okla., after finishing high school in 1998 to pursue her dream of a career in music in Los Angeles, Calif.

Having just completed her second album “Day After Day,” the Muscogee (Creek) musician has not forgot her origins. Listeners can expect several tracks on this new record to feature a family theme.

“A few years ago I lost my grandparents and on the new album I wrote a song for them and then I wrote a song for my niece and nephew who are twins,” Coon said.

While her sophomore album is being mastered, Coon has returned to Oklahoma to visit her family

who has been an integral part of her success.

“I always come back home just to get away from everything... really get my thoughts together,” she said.

Her initial move to Los Angeles, Calif., where she studied at the Musicians Institute College of Contemporary music was emotionally trying for Coon, but her family’s steadfast countenance helped her through this trying period.

“I really wouldn’t have moved and stayed out there as long as I have if it wasn’t for their support,” she said.

This support remains steadfast to this day. Her sister Carrie Wyatt, case aide with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program, set up the interview for this story with the Muscogee Nation News and her family attends all her local shows including a performance at the 2010 Muscogee (Creek) Festival where she opened for The Temptations.

“That was really a lot of fun. It was one of my first shows with a full band. We played a lot of songs from this new album during that

set,” she said.

She has found support from a family member in California since her move.

“My husband Pat Evans was the producer for my first album, Everything So Far,” Coon said.

Coon has been into music since she was a child. Her parents introduced Coon to artists like Elton John who remains one of her biggest influences.

She describes her musical style as having a soulful pop sound.

Coon has won several awards for this sound including: “Best Out of Country” in 2007 from the Orange County Music Awards, “Singer/Songwriter of the Year” from the Payne County Line/Oklahoma Music Awards and “Mainstream Song of the Year Winner” in 2008 from the Native E Music Awards for her songs “Breathe” and “Waiting.”

It has been five years since the release of her last album.

“I’ve grown up a lot. I think I’ve gotten more confident and become a little bit easier on myself when I’m performing. On that end you just become more connected with



MNN/Rebecca Landsberry  
Muscogee (Creek) singer Jamie Coon performs at the 2010 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival.

the audience, by being a lot more laid back,” Coon said.

Having dealt with the growing pains of becoming a recording artist, Coon feels these challenges have only helped her evolve.

“I’ve had some good times and some bad times, but I think I really needed that,” she said.

She shared her advice for anyone else interested in a music career.

“Always do what you feel. If it’s what your passion is and it’s what you love, never let anybody tell you

that you can’t do something,” Coon said. “It’s hard, I’m not going to lie but if you love it and you believe in it enough then that doesn’t matter. It just gets easier with time. I always say pursue your dream.”

To hear samples of Jamie Coon’s music or for booking information, album release and tour dates visit [www.JamieCoon.com](http://www.JamieCoon.com).

Visit Coon’s Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/jamiecoonmusic>

# Tulsa Indian Arts Festival showcases Indian art

## Tulsa Indian Art Festival mixes exposure and sales

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

GLENPOOL, Okla. — The 27th annual Tulsa Indian Arts Festival wasn’t in Tulsa this year, but its Glenpool Conference Center location served it well.

Starting Feb. 8, the three-day festival combined an opportunity for national artists to showcase their work, and gave the public some demonstrations of music and dance. A student art competition and Native American foods gave the hundreds of attendees a chance to view and purchase artwork, talk with the artists and experience local Native culture.

Sarah Crain is a member of the Tulsa Indian Art Festival committee. In between her duties of running the front desk for the festival, she explained the purpose for the gathering, “Today is a representation of Native art from many tribes across the country including Canada, where the artists can bring their work, whether that’s painting, jewelry, sculpture, traditional pieces, etc. and have them on display or for sale. They’re also entering them in the competition, a juried art competition.”

Kristi Collington, the Indian education director for Glenpool Public Schools, coordinated a student art competition. She felt art shows like this were important on several levels, “For the artists, there’s a sense of family, a sense of pride, carrying on tradition. A lot of the art reflects the heritage of our ancestors and being able to reflect that in different form.”

Several of the organizers felt that this year’s location, the Glenpool Conference Center, was a good location, right off Highways 75 and 117.

“I think that it’s a great location here in Glenpool,” Collington said, “Even though it’s the Tulsa Indian



MNN/Gary Fife  
Flutemaker William Harjo discusses his wares with prospective buyer during the Tulsa Indian Arts Festival, Feb. 8

Art Festival. It’s a little outside of Tulsa, but if you look around, you’ve got the scenery, the windows, the light and I really like this venue here.”

Kimberly Greene-Bugg is an Oneida, currently living in Tennessee. She specializes in beadwork, but ventures into other media as well.

The Tulsa show, she said, provides a lot of opportunity, “It’s very inspirational to me. This area is where I grew up as far as going to pow-wows and exposure to culture and history.”

The history of American Indian art has changed from more rigid styles of painting and sculpture to a broader field, embracing more media and interpretations.

The Tulsa Indian Arts Festival is a chance for artists to market their work. That financial return is just as important element as the creative exposure.

Skip Rowell, a Cherokee/Choctaw has been a long-time contributor to the show. Over the years he’s seen the festival differ in size and attendance because of economic factors, “Art is the first thing that takes a hit when the economy

gets tough. It fluctuates with that. We’ve seen ‘up and downs’ but this show, as a whole has pretty much been steady.”

Rowell discounts the size of attending crowds as a determining factor on the success of this arts festival. He thinks there is another factor that should be examined, “A lot of people get too hung up on crowds. It doesn’t take the number of people; it takes the quality of people that come to buy art. Overall, some years are larger than others. I think that once it gets established in one location it’s going to help it over the years.”

He agrees that the commercial sales aspect of an art show is as important as the creative side, “Well, it’s an outlet for us as artists because you need a place to sell and to show your wares, to let people see what you’re doing. A lot of times artists change. I work in several different media. I work in sculpture, bronzes, I carve a lot of moose antlers. I do a lot of scrimshaw work, painting and I make some jewelry. I’ve evolved over the years and I know a lot of others have. We need shows like this for people who appreciate it, to come and get to see it. But,

it’s also a venue for us to sell our wares.”

His advice to young aspiring artists is to be true to the art, “Do each piece just like you were going to keep it yourself. I have witnessed some young artists come on the scene with a tremendous amount of talent. They start selling their stuff and they start making stuff to sell. If your make it to please yourself and keep the quality up, you won’t have any trouble selling it. You start making it for commercial deals, to hurry and sell it, then you’re going to go to the bottom.”

Protecting the Native American integrity of artwork has been the priority of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board. The festival included a table for the board to teach the public about how to avoid fake Indian art and to report it to federal agencies.

Bambi Allen is the curator at the Southern Plains Indian Museum in Anadarko, Okla., and was dispensing information on the subject. “I’m representing them in the fact that we’re a ‘truth in advertising law.”

Artists participating in the Tulsa festival must undergo a screen-

ing process before they’re allowed to take part so the artwork at this show was authentic.

The pirating and misrepresentation of non-Native artwork as the real thing is a huge problem for Native American artists and vendors. That practice represents a major financial loss to authentic Indian artists.

For the last two decades, the Indian Arts and Crafts Act has been the vehicle to try and root out the fakes. Allen feels the law has made some progress but there’s still a lot of work to do, “I believe that we have made an impact. It’s just an ongoing problem because it’s such a big market everywhere. Now it’s so easily available to get the fake items from Hong Kong and China. I mean almost easier than it was before. But we work diligently and that why we go out and spread the information because we want people to report things that aren’t authentic so we can go and try to enforce the law.”

According to Allen, some of the ‘red flag’ warnings consumers should be aware of include multiple copies of the same item, an indication of mass production, a characteristic that most authentic Native artists do not engage in.

“Definitely, if there’s multiples of an item - if you’ve seen the item before or something really similar to it. If you’ve seen a lot of people buying the item or wearing the item or if they have a lot of boxes of it, you can see, that’s definitely a ‘red flag’ there,” Allen said.

If a consumer has doubts, Allen suggests questioning the vendor if the product is Indian-made. If the response is evasive, she said, then the buyer should be cautious, “You can directly ask people, ‘is this authentic or Indian-made, sometimes, they’ll stutter with their answer or they’ll try to come up with a story. If the story sounds too good to be true, then sometimes it is.”

A well-known Native American art show, like the Tulsa Indian Arts Festival would be a safe venue to purchase real Indian art, Allen concluded.



# Tribal program makes driveways drivable

Service fills pot-holes, fixes resi-dential drive-ways for eligible Creek citizens

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — If a Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) citizen needs help with a driveway full of potholes or one in dire need of resurfacing, the Tribal Driveways Program is the place to call.

The tribally-funded program is designed to assist with repairs to residential driveways of tribal members. It's five-member crew works in all nine of the MCN districts. Rural areas and elders who could not afford repairs are priorities for the program. Driveway repairs also make it easier for community health representatives to reach the homes of citizens that may need their services.

Jimmy Basquez is manager of the program, which started in 1995. "The program is designed for people in the rural areas to help with everyday and emergency needs," Basquez said.

Originally federally funded to serve all Native Americans, the program mission was rewritten in 2003 to focus on MCN citizens.

He described the program eligibility guidelines, "You have to be an enrolled Creek citizen, live within the boundaries of the Creek jurisdiction and own and live on the property. It has to be your primary house. It can't be a 'weekend house' or anything like that. Like most programs, the sick and the elderly are kind of at the top and condition of the road rates to the top."

When a citizen requests a driveway repair, an application is required, followed by a site inspection. A letter confirms the site assessment and usually gives an estimated date for the work to take place. Factors that may affect when a request may be filled will be based on the work needed and the funding available in the program budget. Most will be on a waiting list for about a six-month period, unless the crews have a series of small tasks.

Common work performed on driveways repairing ditches, making the driveway surface drain effectively, laying gravel and cleaning or replacing tin corrugated cul-



MNN/Gary Fife  
Gravel is smoothed on MCN Driveways Program repair project. Below, MCN Driveways crew lays gravel.

verts, know as 'tin horns'.

Basquez said most of their projects are quite similar. Average driveways are 300 to 400 feet long. They are mostly dirt with large potholes where drivers create wider 'bulges' when they drive around the holes. "There will be a road in the middle, but as soon as they get a pothole, they'll start moving one way or the other. The driveway was about 12 wide originally," Basquez

said.

Shelton Chastain is field supervisor for the crew. Working on a project near the Keystone, the team is leveling a driveway and putting down a new layer of gravel. It's a small private driveway for a residence. This type of job comprises about 75 percent of the job requests completed by the program. But Chastain said, they have worked on driveways up to a quarter of a mile long.

But many jobs don't start on the ground but in the trees overhanging the driveway. Limbs that overhang the work zone may have to go to allow for dump trucks to deliver their loads at the right spot. Chastain said that's where the job begins, "If the limbs need to be trimmed, we trim them and we'll drag the driveway as best as we can to smooth it up for the trucks to spread. When they spread, we use our tractor to finish smoothing the gravel."

The Tribal Driveways Program is located in the back of an open storage shed and lot, between the modern Indian Health Service building and the vacant MCN Communica-

tions building on the southeastern side of the MCN complex. It can be hard to find and that is part of why many citizens are unaware of the program and its services. That's despite their announcements in the Muscogee Nation News.

Basquez said he still runs into citizens who don't know the service is available, "There's still a lot of people that are unaware of this program. I tell them, we've been going since 1995."

On a yearly average, he added, the program works to assist citizens on about 100 driveways for residences, at least two to three church driveways and the same number of ceremonial grounds. Those numbers will fluctuate, depending on the type of requests and the weather.

The Tribal Driveways Program also assists enrolled tribal citizens in opening graves for funerals family or county cemeteries only. Many of the target towns and cities in the MCN jurisdiction have rigid ordinances regarding this service.

Applications and information for the program may be obtained by calling 918-732-7651.



# OPG looks to employ more Muscogee citizens

MCN Office of Public Gaming aims to put more citizens to work in gaming industry

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

TULSA, Okla. — In casinos throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) boundaries, there are approximately 1,750 employees within the MCN gaming industry, including those in management, salary, and full- and part-time positions.

Of the 1,750 that are employed, only 25 percent are MCN citizens. According to MCN Gaming Commissioner Nelson Johnson, these figures are less than satisfying.

"We need to put Creek citizens to work," Johnson said. "The most jobs for MCN, are in the gaming industry."

When the MCN gaming industry began in 1984, the primary focus was to create jobs for citizens.

"We had a large percentage of Creeks working for us at one time," Johnson said. "97 percent of our employees were Muscogee (Creek) citizens. We want to get back to this percentage. Our primary job is to provide employment for our Creek citizens."

Johnson knows there are many

Muscogee citizens that are out of work. He wants them to know there are employment opportunities in the gaming industry.

"We are looking for people that are ambitious," Johnson said. "We want someone who has great work ethics and is willing to learn. We are making an effort to hire more Creeks"

In 1988, Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), which aimed to promote tribal self-sufficiency and to ensure that Indian tribes remain the primary beneficiaries of gaming revenues from reservation gaming activities. IGRA required all employees to obtain a gaming license to work.

"When the IGRA was passed, it changed a lot of the rules," Johnson said. "Now, in order to work for gaming, you need a gaming license."

Johnson feels this is an area citizens may have had concerns with in the past.

"We did start that [requiring employees to get a gaming license]," Johnson said. "We know that a large number of our citizens have had problems. Consequently, the word was, if you had a 'problem' you cannot go to work for gaming. Our gaming commission or Office of Public Gaming (OPG) is the one that issues the license. It is up to us

to issue or deny a license."

OPG Director of Operations B.J. Waggnor mirrored that sentiment.

"There are people that may have done some things in the past," Waggnor said. "They are scared to apply to try and get back to work. Since then, they have been living a clean life, but because of what happened, they think they cannot gain employment or get a license to work in gaming. That does not automatically keep you from getting a license to work in the casinos. We want to give every Creek citizen a chance."

Johnson said gaming industry employees have used this experience to propel themselves into more successful occupations, inside the casinos and out.

"We have people working for us that have been here since we opened," Johnson said. "A lot of other people have gone on to other jobs, but this gives a good base, for better jobs or bigger jobs. We have a lot that were students that came and started here part-time and have gone on to other jobs, but a lot are still here with us."

Johnson explained that each gaming license application is handled on a case-by-case basis.

"I have made it a policy of OPG to examine each applicant individually," Johnson said. "Also, [the department has] expand[ed] back-

ground checks to include past history and current activities with letters of support and recommendations and include a personal interview. In compliance, OPG will conduct 'individualized assessment' to determine if the offense disqualifies the applicant for a specific job."

Johnson said the aim is ultimately to help citizens help themselves.

"We want to help our Creek citizens. We will look each case over to

see if that individual is able to get a license to get employment with us."

To apply for employment, MCN citizens can visit the MCN Human Resources Department located at the MCN complex or check listings online at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov). Applicants may also search for job opportunities at specific casinos located throughout the MCN jurisdictional boundaries through the individual casinos' human resources departments.



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming aims to hire more MCN citizens in tribally-owned casinos.



# CMN hosts inaugural College Goal Sunday

Local colleges discuss FAFSA, scholarships and degree programs with tribal students

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. – The inaugural College Goal Sunday took place Feb. 10 at the College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN).

College Goal Sunday is a national initiative offering opportunities for college students and their families to prepare for, apply to and attend college or technical school. The CMN presented workshops on preparing Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) departments attended the event to explain services offered through the tribe. MCN Employment and Training and Higher Education spoke with students in attendance.

Nancy Mason, Youth Coordinator for MCN Employment and Training, was very happy with the turnout.

“This event is a great thing for the students locally and that want to go to college,” Mason said. “We are providing resources for the students here to be able to complete their FAFSA and also there



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
A representative from Rogers State University speaks with students about their degree program.

are other colleges that are able to show what they provide, should the student want to try and go to their school.”

College recruiters from OSU-IT, Connors State College, Bacone College, Seminole State and Rogers State University had information booths available to students and parents.

Monte Randall, CMN Dean of Student Affairs, presented one of the workshops. He talked about CMN and the degree programs offered at the institution.

“Our workshops have a lot of things that we cover to help these kids get ready for college,” Randall said. “We want these students to know that they are able to get resources and we want to show where and how they can obtain them. Primarily, it is focused to-

wards financial aid. It is good to get that done as soon as possible, early in the year. It is never too late to start thinking about college.”

Mason said she enjoyed that the colleges and other programs were able to come out on a Sunday to talk about what they offer.

“This is more of a convenient time for families to be able to come and get information about these colleges,” Mason said. “During the week or even in the evening, it is often a rush time to get to these events. Sometimes they have to miss work or school. Doing this on a Sunday helps them to be able to come on their free time.”

For more information on College Goal Sunday, please contact Nancy Mason at 918-732-7776 or Monte Randall at 918-549-2817.

# Muscogee (Creek) educator named teacher of the year

Special education instructor Dinah Hill gives insight into her success

**Sterling Cospoer**  
*MNN Reporter*

BIXBY, Okla. — Dinah Hill was nominated by her fellow staff members as teacher of the year at Central Elementary in Bixby, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) special education instructor was given this honor after being employed at the school for four years, the minimum tenure required to be eligible for the award. Central Elementary is Hill’s first teaching job.

Hill will be honored during a ceremony at the end of the year along with other teachers nominated throughout the district and those who are retiring.

One strategy Hill utilizes in her approach to teaching is the constant modification of her curriculum to meet the varying needs of her students.

“What might work for one student might not work for another. Often I go back to the drawing board and say, ‘this is what we need to be doing so how are we going to get there?’ ”

Hill also maintains a methodical approach to how she conducts her class.

“My biggest philosophy inside the classroom is routine and structure, even for kids without disabilities,” she said.

As an instructor for pre-kindergarten through third grade, each of Hill’s classes has students at different learning levels with a variety of disabilities.

“I have some students where we start at basic life skills and then we go into academic skills, so I have a variety of students with multiple needs,” she said.

To help her with such a diverse class, Hill has teaching assistants who work to redirect students during her lessons. She has also received a lot of support from outside her classroom.

“The principal in our building has been very supportive as well as our directors of special education,” she said. “Even my co-workers and the homeroom teachers I work with. They’re all very supportive of what I do.”

Hill obtained her degree in special education from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., and received assistance during and even before she attended college.

“I’m very thankful for Creek Nation because we grew up in an impoverished family so they provided for my medical [care] growing up and my school throughout college,” she said.

She also expressed her intent to utilize the MCN mortgage assistance program in the near future.

A native of Bixby, Hill is very pleased with the support local schools receive from the public.

“They are tight knit. It is probably the most supportive community that I have had the opportunity to experience,” she said. “There is a lot of community involvement.”

Hill’s mentality as a teacher is that of a natural public servant and instructor.

“I love teaching. For me, one of the biggest rewards in special ed teaching is when you are able to teach a child and you’re able to witness their light bulb or ‘ah-ha’ moment where the skill you’re working on clicks,” she said.

She shared her advice for success as an educator.

“If you’re starting a new program, be prepared. It was probably one of the hardest things I’ve ever done but I’ve loved it,” Hill said.



Photo submitted/ Dinah Hill  
“I love teaching. For me, one of the biggest rewards in special Ed teaching is when you are able to teach a child and you’re able to witness their light bulb or ‘ah-ha’ moment where the skill you’re working on clicks,” said Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dinah Hill who was named teacher of the year at Central Elementary in Bixby, Okla.

# CMN Ravens host exhibition basketball game against Bobcats

Pawnee Nation College Bobcats catch College of the Muscogee Nation Ravens in first meeting

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. – On Feb. 15, Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) and College of Muscogee Nation (CMN) held the first exhibition basketball game between the CMN Ravens and the Pawnee Nation College Bobcats at the Okmulgee County Family YMCA.

Faculty, students, parents and fans were on hand to witness the battle on the hardwood between these two tribal colleges.

CMN Dean of Student Affairs Monte Randall serves as head coach for the Ravens. He spoke about the team and what they want to accomplish.

“We put this [team] together last semester,” Randall said. “We are hoping to get to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) tournament in March.”

The Ravens will host and travel to other tribal colleges throughout Oklahoma for more exhibitions and scrimmages to prepare themselves



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
Coach Monte Randall talks with the CMN Ravens during a time-out in their first exhibition game.

for this tournament.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger greeted both teams at mid-court with an opening prayer.

“I want to commend both teams for being here today,” Tiger said. “Thank our relatives from the Pawnee Nation. This is a historic afternoon for these two colleges to get together to play their very first game against one another.”

Dr. James King, Director of Institutional Effectiveness at CMN, is looking forward to what having a basketball team will do for the institution.

“We are looking forward to our team developing as the college develops,” King said. “We want to join a league and play other colleges throughout the state and nation. It gives them [students] a spirit of belonging and camarade-

rie and having an opportunity to support their classmates and athletics and, as you know, athletics is an important part of higher education.”

A majority of the team is local students living within the MCN boundaries.

“We have guys from Keifer, Bixby and Okmulgee area,” Randall said. “They played high school ball in the local area. They are anxious to come out and represent the College of the Muscogee Nation.”

Although the score of the game was not in their favor (59-44 loss to the Bobcats), the Ravens continue to practice as they prepare for the AIHEC tournament that will be held in March.



This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming



**\$100,000  
IN GIVEAWAYS**



## March 30th: Bunny Money 10K Giveaway



Like us on Facebook! Follow us on twitter! "Luckstrikeshere"



# Veterans' Scoop: In search of wounded, killed or captured MCN veterans

Ken Davis  
MCN VASO Director

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The history of our men and women wounded, killed or captured fighting for our freedoms are fading into non-existence. Poor record keeping, fires and even the changing of our names to simplify military identification are preventing Muscogee (Creek) veterans the right and honor they truly earned and deserve. Imagine putting your life on the line for your country, and your people, taking a bullet or shrapnel so that others you will never know may enjoy life with freedom.

Our veterans are not looking for glory, or to be recognized as part of the few who gave their all. However, it is our job as citizens of this great country, and our blessed tribe, to quietly render respect and honor to every man or woman who said, “I will fight for you and I will sacrifice for you.”

Men and women from the Great War (World War I) to Afghanistan simply want nothing more than to come home and live a quiet and free life. Whether they want it or not, they have earned and deserve much, much more.

Here at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) we are committed to identifying and recording every Muscogee (Creek) who has ever been in service. It is an honor for us to search day-in and day-out for Creeks that have been forgotten, or Creek families who just do not know how to bring their family’s warriors to light.

For the most part those still alive to tell about their military service come forward and we place items of their choice in our museum, and assist in their disability claims.

Families who wish to memorialize their elders in our museum are more than welcome to display items pertaining to their military service. We constantly aim to increase the known number of Creeks who have served in the military, and make sure they are properly and respectfully honored.

Our highest honors go to those who have been killed, wounded or captured in the line of duty. One of our most recent discoveries was a Muscogee veteran by the name of Johny John, of Dustin, Okla. John’s great-granddaughter, Serena Selumber, and his niece, Louise Ware (maiden name John) knew that their family member was a veteran, and possibly a recipient of the Purple Heart.

In a twist of coincidence, Selumber was referred to VASO because another department within the MCN told her we might have a 10-inch Muscogee Nation embroidered seal she could obtain from us to sew onto her motorcycle vest. Selumber noticed that the VASO building was also a museum and informed us that her great-grandfather was a WW I veteran. Ques-

tions were asked.

Well, one conversation led to another conversation. After questions were answered by Selumber, the diligent effort began to retrieve all information possible about her WW I great-grandfather. Together with the information she and Ware provided, along with VASO’s research, we found that John served as an infantryman with the 358th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, American Expeditionary Force, United States Army - WW I and he was a recipient of the Purple Heart.

So many thanks to John’s family. Henceforth, he will now be honored and remembered in the Veterans Affairs Services Office’s center court.

The hardest part of our job is actually one of the simplest for you citizens. Finding and honoring those service members who have been wounded, captured, or killed in times of war. Those stories passed down or told to you by your grandparent, or even the families who say, “He never talks about his service.”

Finding these names has proven quite difficult, as with our latest World War I veteran found. We were given the name Sam Ochee and began our search from there. How Ochee’s name came about was from a letter received from the great-grandson of the Army Lieutenant who led a detachment of American Indian Scouts.

He also included pictures that featured Ochee and Jatia Fixico along with his great-grandfather. Not known was what battalion, regiment or division they were assigned to during WW I and more importantly, we do not know what happened to Ochee or Fixico.

After receiving a registry sent to us pertaining to World War I, we discovered his name was not Sam Ochee. It was Samochee Barnett. This very rare registry was found in a library by a Creek citizen who lives in Texas and he immediately thought of us. It is the submissions

like this that can aid us in showing the great contributions and sacrifices soldiers have made to the United States of America and it is all up to us. We all have a task in this mission. We cannot begin a search without first receiving a name and, or documentation that this person was, in fact, a veteran; nothing is more honorable than finding another veteran and showing the family that this person will be remembered.

Fellow Muscogee (Creek) citizens, we are asking for your help. If you have any documentation, discharge papers, dog tags, or pictures that can help us find these long lost soldiers, please bring them to VASO or mail the information.

We would enjoy nothing more than to prevent these warriors from ever being forgotten.



Muscogee (Creek) WW I Army Scout  
Samochee Barnett



# MUSCOGEE VETERANS

## HOUSING SEMINAR



**DATE: TUESDAY, 9 APRIL 2013**

**TIME: 900 - 1200 (Lunch Break) 1300 - 1600**

**LOCATION: MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION MOUND AUDITORIUM**

**This seminar will cover**

**“How To’s on •Financing a home •Refinancing a home •Equity Loans**

**For additional information contact:**  
**Ken Davis at 918-732-7739**

## Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement

**What is This About?**

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

**The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.**

**Am I Included?**

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
  - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
  - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government’s records as of September 30, 2009.

**Do I Need to File a Claim Form?**

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877, postmarked by **March 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

**How Much Money Can I Get?**

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

**For a claim form or to update your contact information:**

**Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109 or Visit: [www.IndianTrust.com](http://www.IndianTrust.com)**



# ATTENTION MUSCOGEE WW II VETERANS

01 February 2013

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) is hosting a Victory Flight this Spring. The trip will be the week of 21-26 April 2013, a 6 day and 5 night stay. The Victory Flight is open to all Muscogee WW II Veterans. The WW II Veteran is also allowed to bring one guest. The Victory Flight will take the Muscogee WW II Veterans from Okmulgee in our tribal bus to Tulsa, and then to Washington, D.C. via airline. The Veterans and their guests will be visiting memorials in Washington, D.C. and surrounding areas.


The purpose of this trip is to introduce our Muscogee WW II Veterans to a world of monuments and memorials that they helped inspire. The stops on the trip include, the National WW II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima Memorial, National Museum of the American Indian and the Marine Corps National Museum. Of our living WW II Veterans thus far verified:

**COON, Phillip USA**  
**DIXON, Mamie WAAC**  
**FISH, Eddie USAAF**  
**HARRY, Simon USA**  
**HAYES, Raymond USCG**  
**KNIGHT, Willis USMC**  
**MCGIRT, Raymond USA**

**GORDON, John USA**  
**MCINTOSH, Thomas USN**  
**MOORE, Tom USA**  
**ROBERTS, James USN**  
**WIND, Daniel USA**  
**YAHOLA, Miller USA**

Those that want to take this trip, please respond to the Veterans Affairs Office by 15 March 2013.

**If there are any other Muscogee WW II Veterans that have not been listed above, and would like to attend, or just know more about the trip, please contact:**  
**Ken Davis at (918) 732-7739 or Brooke Smith at (918) 732-7744.**





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR MARCH 2013

## MCN CR&D TO HOST COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION SUMMIT MARCH 2

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Department of Community Research and Development (CR&D) will host a Community Revitalization Summit March 2 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Jenks High School Oval in the Math and Science Building in Jenks, Okla. CR&D Manager Sarai Geary will present findings from a needs analysis and MCN Principal Chief George Tiger will present Outstanding Community Leadership Awards to the MCN communities.

For more information, contact MCN CR&D at 918-732-7972.

## SALT CREEK UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER MARCH 2

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Salt Creek United Methodist Church will host their annual all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner March 2 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center.

Adults are \$10 and children 10 and under are \$5. Carry-out orders are \$10. For vendor space, contact Doug Scott at 405-379-3125.

## OU TO HOST AMERICAN INDIAN SYMPOSIUM MARCH 2

NORMAN, Okla. — The University of Oklahoma (OU) Native American Studies and College of Law will host the annual symposium on American Indians March 7 at the OU College of Law in the Bell Auditorium.

The symposium is titled, “Overcoming Barriers: Resolving Conflict in Indian Country,” and will focus on resolution of tribal conflict through traditional means. Registration fee is \$25 and includes lunch for the day.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Terri McKnight at [tmcknight@ou.edu](mailto:tmcknight@ou.edu) or by phone at 405-325-2312.

## BIG CUSSETAH UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER MARCH 16

MORRIS, Okla. — Big Cussetah United Methodist Church will host their annual wild onion dinner March 16 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the church located at 20554 Prairie Bell Rd., in Morris, Okla.

Adults are \$10 and children 10 and under are \$5. Carry-out orders are \$10.

For more information, contact Miley Hargis at 918-342-3637.

## CREEK HYMN SINGING SET FOR MARCH 21

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Creek hymn singing will be held March 21 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee from 7-9 p.m., every third Thursday of the month. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact Tecumseh Jackson at 918-752-7505.

## CONCHARTY UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER MARCH 23

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Concharty UMC will host their annual wild onion dinner March 23 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The church is located at 19040 Garfield Road, 12 miles south of Bixby on Bixby Road.

Adults are \$10 and children 12 and under are \$5. All carry outs are \$10.

For more information, call 918-366-8450, email: [info@kvncate.com](mailto:info@kvncate.com) or visit: [www.kvncate.com](http://www.kvncate.com).

## LITTLE CUSSETAH UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER MARCH 30

SCHULTER, Okla. — Little Cussetah United Methodist Church will host their annual all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner March 30 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the church located in Schulters, Okla., on Hwy 75 between Henryetta and Okmulgee. Menu includes wild onions, salt meat, frybread, grape dumplings and more.

Adults are \$10 and children 12 and under are \$5. Carry-out orders are \$10.

For directions or more information, visit the Facebook page (Little Cussetah UMC) or contact Paul Tecumseh at 918-270-0231 or Karen King at 918-652-5356.

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH MARCH 31

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Applications for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are now being accepted through March 31.

The MCN SYEP is a summer work experience and life skills development opportunity for youth, ages 16-21.

For more information, contact MCN Employment & Training Administration Youth Works Program at 918-732-7777 or 800-482-1979 ext. 7777.

## SPRINGFIELD UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER APRIL 6

OKEMAH, Okla. — Springfield United Methodist Church will host their annual all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner April 6 beginning at 11 a.m., at the church.

Adults are \$10 and children 12 and under are \$5. All carry outs are \$10.

## MCN SENIOR SERVICES OFFERING FREE FIREWOOD TO SENIORS

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Senior Services is offering free firewood for MCN senior citizens ages 55 and up.

To schedule a delivery or pickup, contact Randy or Chris Harjo at 918-732-7731 or MCN Senior Services Manager Dave Dunson at 918-732-7699.

## MCN Behavioral Health offers youth programs for spring

**Media Release**  
*MCN Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services*

SAPULPA, Okla. — Looking for free fun and educational events to send your kids to? Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services (MCNBHS) often partner with other programs within the tribe to offer the public educational, fun, and culturally appropriate events. This year there are a variety of sponsored events the MCNBHS actively participates in on the local, state and national levels.

On a local level: Spring Celebration this year will be held at the Beggs Event Center located at Beggs Public Schools, 1201 W. 9th Beggs, OK 74421. Our theme this year is ‘Celebrating YOUTH.’ It will feature the Tulsa 66ers for a basketball clinic, activities, a motivational speaker and the Tulsa Youth Lacrosse League with a lacrosse clinic. Come show your support and enjoy the festivities on March 19 from 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

On a state and national levels: MCNBHS will participate in the state Children’s Behavioral Health Conference “Stepping in Success” where tribal citizens can celebrate, learn, and experience the successes in innovative children and family therapies March 27-29 in Norman, Okla. We will also continue a tradition of Children’s Mental Health Awareness at the Restoring Harmony Powwow April 20 from 10 a.m. – 11 p.m., at the Westside YMCA in Tulsa. The annual Children’s Mental Health Awareness Youth Summit will be held May 9 at the Glenpool Convention Center, located at 12205 S. Yukon Ave., in Glenpool, Okla.

New this year is a partnership with Stand For The Silent (SFTS) and the acclaimed film ‘BULLY.’

MCNBHS will be hosting a tour of the film ‘BULLY’ as well as a discussion panel and things students can do to “take a stand” against bullying in their school such as forming their own chapter of SFTS and the Bully curriculum for schools. Screenings will begin March 1 at area schools.

MCNBHS partners with various programs and organizations to provide these and future events free of charge as part of our effort to empower and educate the youth and families of our great nation.

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# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## Initiative assesses tribal communities' priorities

MARCH 15, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 6  
"TASAHCUCE"  
LITTLE SPRING



### Community Research and Development assesses MCN communities' needs

**Gary Fife / MNN Editorial Assistant**  
**Sterling Cosper / MNN Reporter**

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Department of Community Research and Development (CR&D) hosted a Community Revitalization Summit March 2 at the Jenks High School Math and Science Building in Jenks, Okla.

"We're trying to bridge the gap between our office and the communities and the communities and the tribe," said CR&D Community Program Planning Coordinator Jenifer Gover.



**Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds**  
Cherrah Giles, Secretary of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Human Services Department, speaks during the Community Revitalization Summit March 2 in Jenks, Okla.

CR&D conducted a needs analysis with MCN communities prior to the summit. The result was a document entitled: "Community Revitalization Initiative 2013." It was presented to the communities during the summit for feedback.

"We heard from the communities themselves that these were

their main issues, so in the index are all those issues," Gover said.

Sarai Geary, MCN CR&D Manager explained that surveys were distributed at the communities' quarterly meetings. Information was also gathered through mailings and one-on-one interviews.

According to Gover, the initia-

tive also incorporated information CR&D gathered from outside entities like other municipalities and the state of Oklahoma to gain insight into how they form communities and boards.

"That's where the book really came from, is from that research to give tools and ideas of standard

procedures to make it a little more efficient and easier," she said.

Gover indicated that CR&D intends to allow the communities to decide what works for them.

"It is just the beginning of a conversation; none of the stuff in this book is law," she said.

**SEE SUMMIT - 2**

### Okla. liaison reports on progress

**Gary Fife**  
**MNN Editorial Assistant**

OKMULGEE, Okla.— When Okla. State Liaison for Indian Affairs, Jacque Hensley took the job replacing the entire former Indian Affairs commission, she expected to hit the ground running, but, as she put it, "Nobody told me it was running uphill."

Since August 2012, Hensley has been traveling around the state to meet with tribes and different Native American interest groups to hear their agendas and report back to Governor Mary Fallin on tribal priorities.

"I've been to tribal headquarters and have met with tribal leaders. I've wanted to see what they've done development-wise," Hensley said.

Tribal tobacco compacts have topped her agendas as many of the existing compacts will reach their expirations in June 2013. They will have to be renegotiated by the state and tribes.

Hensley said a portion of her time has been spent on child and family issues.

"Currently, I am working on strengthening the working relationship between with DHS (Department of Human Services) and Indian Child Welfare. In the past years, they've had problems with reporting to each other, and the with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and trying to re-educate people on that act."

Tribal governments have been telling her that they want stronger ties with state agencies and that they were just glad a state agency representative was paying attention to their needs.

**SEE HENSLEY - 2**

## Ryal community responds to superintendent's comments

### School board votes to suspend Trower with pay

**Darren DeLaune / MNN Contributor**  
**Rebecca Landsberry / MNN Editor**

HENRYETTA, Okla. – A recent article in The Daily Oklahoman prompted a community listening session at Ryal Public Schools March 4.

In the article, 'Oklahoma students battle poverty in fight to learn' written by reporter Carrie Coppernoll published Feb. 25, Ryal Superintendent Scot Trower makes the statement, "meth and alcohol rule down here."

According to the article, an estimated 90 percent of the school's 70 students are Muscogee (Creek).

Over 60 members of the community including Ryal



**MNN/Gary Fife**  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (left) speaks at a community listening session near Henryetta, Okla., March 4. Ryal Public Schools Superintendent Scot Trower is pictured at right.

parents, teachers and former students attended the listening session to share concerns of what they felt was an inaccurate and negative portrayal of their community. Trower was also present.

Raelynn Hammer's daughter

attends school at Ryal. Hammer responded to Trower's comments.

"This community comes together and takes care of one another. Trower has not only offended this school and community but surrounding communities," Ham-

mer said. "I take my daughter to school here every morning. If there was any drugs or alcohol here, why would I bother bringing her to Ryal?"


The article stated, "Sometimes students climb onto the school bus wearing socks but no shoes, even in the winter-time."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Principal Chief George Tiger and members of his cabinet attended the listening session. Tiger specifically responded to Trower's comment.

"To sensationalize a community like Ryal for the purpose of getting money is wrong," Tiger said. "This is probably an area where it is the most traditional and cultural...We are not going to be dressed up like another school but I know that none of our kids come to school without shoes."

**SEE RYAL - 2**





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EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

HENSLEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Most of the leaders were happy that someone from the state had come out to their headquarters. Usually, everyone is called in to the state capitol in Oklahoma City. My goal is to provide coordination between the tribes and the state agencies, not just the Governor’s Office.”

Meetings with Gov. Fallin, Hensley said, happen every week. Besides the child welfare and tobacco issues, she said law enforcement agreements are being discussed, “Also coming up the pike is cross deputization, tribal protection issues are met.” Hensley elaborated on that issue, “If there’s a protective order against somebody—that both the state and the tribal officers work together for the safety of Oklahomans—not just tribal members or non-tribal members.”

One of the tribes that remain on her list to be visited is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Hensley said she wants to visit the MCN this spring,

Social Service energy program applications due March 22

Media Release

MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services energy programs will end March 31 for the heating season. Applications will not be accepted after March 22. Citizens that have pending Tribal Energy or LIHEAP applications in the office must submit all required documentation by Friday, March 22 or the application will be denied.

For more information, contact MCN Social Services at 918-549-2445 between 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Social Service workers not see applicants or take phone calls the last Wednesday of each month. During this time, social workers will only be available in emergency cases only, such as burial assistance and natural disasters (i.e., fire flood, tornado, earthquake, ect.). A drop box is located on the entrance door located to the west of the building for paperwork.

SUMMIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger further clarified the Nation’s intentions and reiterated the department’s approach of self-determination.

“We’re willing to provide technical assistance but we’re not going to come in and tell you what to do. We’re going to make some recommendations. Let the communities make their own decisions on those recommendations,” Tiger said.

This includes individual communities’ goals.

“Some communities just want to be social communities; some want to grow and expand and have more economic development,” Gover said.

This independence was acknowledged and encouraged by Gover.

“Hopefully they will be economically independent, politically independent and be self-reliant and that’s what they want,” she said.

The demographics section of the initiative document outlined the current economic development efforts of the communities.

The report indicates that 11 communities generate revenue from smoke shops and the Twin Hills community receives income from their convenience plaza.

Thirteen communities are listed as being without economic enterprises.

Tribal casinos are not included in the report.

According to Cherrah Giles, Secretary of the MCN Department of Community and Human Services, the impact of changes in the expenditure of gaming revenue is being examined.

“We had to look at the trauma that our government has placed on our community centers,” she said. “So we’re still having to overcome the stigma...but I believe in Chief Tiger’s administration. We are trying to carry that message forward that we really are trying to build that relationship with our community centers.”

Four main topics in the initiative are:

- Boundaries, membership and community participation
- Community elections
- Financial transparency, policies, procedures and accountability of the community board
- Building codes

More surveys were distributed during the summit to further the needs analysis process with the communities.

“We’ve compiled them and broken down each question and compiled their comments and it will all go into a report,” said Geary.

Gover explained CR&D’s future plans for this process.

“Our next step is to review the data and get together sometime with the communities. We’re going to have another summit coming up; we’re not sure when but soon,” she said.

The department plans to continue gathering input from the communities and combine all this information into a plan of action.

“The final plan of action won’t happen until some time from now because we want to meet with the communities a lot more, get more of their input,” Gover said. “We really need to do a lot more of that until anything is set in stone.”

Gover elaborated on CR&D’s plans.

“There may be more summits, more meetings but this is just the beginning of this discussion; it is going to be an ongoing process.”

She expressed her feelings about this process.

“We are really excited working with the communities and we’re here for them; we work for them,” Gover said.

For copies of the “Community Revitalization Initiative 2013” contact CR&D at 918-732-7964.

RYAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ryal teacher and school bus driver Maria Smith also remarked on the statement.

“The comments that were made about the bus, about them wearing socks but no shoes, even in the wintertime... I am the bus driver. He rode on the bus with me. We have some kids that run late sometimes. We all are like that. Some of the kids will run on the bus with their shoes in their hands. They are fully clothed and getting dressed,” Smith said.

Another excerpt from the article stated, “Most parents who work have jobs at a casino or at Muscogee (Creek) Nation headquarters in Okmulgee. But many don’t work at all, Trower said.

He’s had parents ask to have gasoline out of the school pump. Water has been stolen.”

Tiger shared how the MCN brings jobs and programs to smaller communities in the area.

“All these paved roads you see around here are because of MCN,” Tiger said. “Majority of the homes built here are because of MCN. The child care that is provided through our head start centers, is provided through a memorandum of agreement and that is provided by the MCN.”

Life-long Ryal resident and MCN citizen Wanda Williams commented.

“I am really humbled today seeing all of you here,” Williams said. “You don’t know how hard it has been. I’m also very proud today because my chief [Tiger] is standing here beside me.”

Despite Trower’s explanation and apology, Tiger asked for Trower’s resignation from his position as superintendent.

“Small schools like Ryal across the state are in serious trouble when it comes to the support they have at the state government level,” Trower said. “They look at small schools as a burden, a financial burden to the state education budget. It was because of this, I agreed to let The Daily Oklahoman come to Ryal when they called and asked if they could come and visit.”

Ryal School Board members called a meeting following the community listening session. During the meeting, the board voted to suspend Trower with pay.

“We did vote to suspend Trower with pay, pending further investigation by the board. We will be in touch with our attorneys to find out where we go from here,” school board member Robert Bennett said.

Trower returned his keys and was escorted from the premises by MCN Lighthorse Police.

Trower is challenging the suspension citing a violation of open meeting laws by the Ryal School Board.

To read the full story published in The Daily Oklahoman, visit: <http://newsok.com/oklahoma-students-battle-poverty-in-fight-to-learn/article/3758528>



MNN/Sterling Cosper

Jacque Secondine Hensley, Okla. Liaison for Indian Affairs speaks at the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes quarterly meeting in January 2013 in Durant, Okla.



## Former stuntwoman creating film production company

### MCN citizen and stuntwoman Francine Morris aims to bring Hollywood to Indian Country

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Contributor

MUSKOGEE, Okla. – Francine Morris isn’t new to the filmmaking industry, at the age of 24, she was blasted from buildings, fighting in the martial arts style and creating quick getaways on a motorcycle while working with celebrities such as Chris Tucker, Vanessa Williams and Sandra Bullock.

Since returning home to Oklahoma eight years ago, her hope has been to bring the style of Hollywood filmmaking here.

“Being able to work on the West Coast for so many years, I want to bring the moviemaking business here, not only to Oklahoma, but directly to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,” said Morris.

Morris started her film career in November 1994, in the television program “Diagnosis Murder.” She described her big break as “surreal” when she doubled for two of the actresses and described the star of the show, Dick Van Dyke, as a very nice person to work with.

Though the rewards and notoriety of being part of a movie can be great, the responsibilities of a stunt person can also be physically demanding.

While filming the movie “Starship Troopers,” Morris sustained a broken hip among other injuries. She described the incident, which involved a “flip fall” down a hill.

“In the first take, the gun I am carrying breaks and falls apart, the second take they don’t like the angle. The third take is

the keeper and I get a standing ovation for the way I created and handled the fall but I have a hard time getting up. I knew then that something was wrong with my hip,” she remembered.

Morris continued with the completion of the film.

“I had to continue to work throughout the rest of that day, which meant more direct impact on my body. At the end of the day, I was numb all over but I was so committed to my craft, taking care of my duties toward the completion of the film are of the utmost importance,” Morris said.

Like many people who rely on their physical talent to make a living, Morris felt she would never be injured.

“I’ve talked with professional athletes and they would tell me that they always felt that nothing could ever happen to them and even if it did, they would never let it affect them or stop them.”

Morris continued to work although doctors told her she needed to heal properly.

When the pain became too extreme and demands too much, Morris realized she needed to come home to Oklahoma and be near her family, even resigning her position as local president of the “Stunt Women’s Association.”

Although Morris’s injuries eventually forced her to walk with a cane and accept that her stunt days are over, the desire of making movies is still in her.

Morris created “Reel Entertainment Dimension” along with her cousin, Chris Hicks, who also has worked in Hollywood. The two are looking to create movies that are Oklahoma-based and culturally themed.

“There are so many great stories out there that need to be told,” Morris said. “That’s what we want to bring with Reel Entertainment Dimension.”



MNN/Gerald Wofford  
Francine Morris created “Reel Entertainment Dimension” with her cousin, Chris Hicks. The two are looking to create movies that are Oklahoma-based and culturally themed.

## Muscogee (Creek) businesswoman helps Native artists thrive



MNN/Sterling Cospers  
Shirley Martin, owner of S & L Gallery in Henryetta, Okla., shows off one of her many authentic Native American art pieces. The gallery features a variety of Native American art made by artists hailing from different tribes.

### MCN citizen’s art business is spontaneous success

Sterling Cospers  
MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — Shirley Martin, owner of S & L Gallery at 511 W. Main St. in Henryetta, Okla., took over the lease on the property for her business with no particular plans.

“This building was going through foreclosure and my friends had it so I took over the payments at the bank,” Martin said.

The Muscogee (Creek) businesswoman opened the location Aug. 29, 2012 and after an art show the following month, she discovered a need.

“I opened up for an art show and once they came in for that I had people paying me money to set up here. All I was going to do was have an art show but they started telling me what they could do and make,” Martin said.

S & L now features a variety of Native American art from artists ranging from ages 10 to 88 and hailing from tribal nations such as Comanche, Navajo, Cherokee, Pawnee and of course Muscogee (Creek).

The gallery has an equal variety of cultural pieces including: sculptures, bustles, pottery, paintings, ball-sticks and war clubs and has had visitors from as far away as the Dominican Republic and Columbia.

Martin has established a unique business model for S&L, charging artists \$20 a month for space to show and sell their work and taking no profit from the sales.

“I didn’t want to have a place that takes half the money when they sell it. I know that it’s their labor and they buy the supplies and I also know that if I price it really high it will sit on the shelves,” she said.

She also profits from selling high quality materials to help supply artists with what they need to meet the standards she has set for the art displayed in her gallery.

“I have had one or two come in here that had made little beaded necklaces but they had used beads from Wal-Mart,” Martin said. “The only requirement I have for them is that they have a CDIB card and that they do not bring

anything in here that is made in China; they must make it themselves.”

Using the \$20 monthly fee to pay the utilities, Martin covers the mortgage payment on the property with her disability check.

She is no longer able to work after an on-the-job injury that ended her 24 years of employment at a glass plant in Henryetta, Okla.

“I am medically handicapped. I draw a disability check but I’m not the type that likes staying at home,” Martin said. “I like having people coming in to talk to me and if I do one good thing or sell one little item it gives me such pleasure on the inside.”

She feels a specific joy from helping her oldest artists.

“If I sell just one item maybe they’ll make \$10 to pay a utility or something; that satisfies me more than anything,” Martin said. “My oldest vendor is 88 years old and I buy from her because I want her to stay active. For a woman her age to make what she does is special to me.”

Martin has also taken a special interest her younger artists.

“I have a boy that is 19 years old that makes beaded medallions. I try to keep him excited because he is so young,” she said.

She hopes this generational

variety will generate its own benefits.

“I know that if I have the 88 and the 10 year old they will be able to continue to share ideas together,” Martin said.

Martin hopes to expand her business by installing an elevator within her building so she can reach the upper level where she plans to display Native artifacts and give tours to children.

“The Johnson O’Malley program here in Henryetta has 400 students. I want to host them at different times,” she said.

She plans to host Native art and Myskoke Language classes as well.

Although she owns an art gallery, Martin says that she herself is not artist.

“I don’t have a craft talent for anything,” she said.

She explained the genesis of S & L and its success.

“All of this is pure luck. You know how you just wake up one day and you’ve got a little idea? That’s what happened and it snowballed on me,” Martin said.

S & L Gallery is located at 511 W. Main St. in Henryetta Okla. and their hours are Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m-3:30 p.m.

Phone number: 918-652-5387

Find S & L on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/SSandLGallery>





# Cockrum signs with University of Oklahoma



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
Elliot Cockrum, his parents and representative from the University of Oklahoma, D'Andre Fisher, signs a letter of intent to play football for the OU Sooners next season.

## MCN citizen signs letter of intent as kicker for Sooner football

Darren DeLaune  
MNN Contributor

CHOCTAW, Okla – Elliott Cockrum, 18, along with family members, high school football coaches and senior classmates, signed a letter of intent to go to school and play football at the University of Oklahoma on Feb. 28.

Cockrum will be suiting up in crimson and cream next season when he reports to duty as a kicker for the Sooners.

“This is a great feeling, a great moment,” Cockrum said. “OU is the best school around and it is really where I want to be this entire time.”

Cockrum had other schools showing interest as well. Schools such as Texas Christian University and Oklahoma State University were in talks with Cockrum to recruit him.

During his senior season, Cockrum had to deal with injuries but didn’t let that stop him from playing as much as he could. He showed off his talents for scouts at games events and believes that is what helped him to be attend OU.

“I tore my quadriceps,” Cockrum said. “I was only able to play half of my senior season. When I played, I did real good and also at some kicking tournaments. I did real good there too.”

D’Andre Fisher, OU Assistant Director in the Diversity Enrichment Programs, was in attendance for Cockrum’s signing to the university and had nothing but positive things to say about Cockrum.

“We are out here today for Elliott,” Fisher said. “An amazing student-ath-

lete who represents what it means to be a student, first and then an athlete. This is the prime example of what the University of Oklahoma looks for in a student. He is bringing to our institution a young man who has a lot of growth and a lot of potential in not only the playing field but in class as well.”

Cockrum’s is also being considered for the President’s Community Scholar (PCS) Program, which recognizes students doing outstanding community service in their communities and schools.

“Elliott is going to be in front of a committee from this program,” Fisher said. “They are going to see if he is qualified. This is a class [PCS] that is very, very distinguished. A lot of students on campus look at these kids as leaders and role models. We should know before May if he will be in this program.”

Athletic Director for Choctaw High School Greg Skaggs spoke about Cockrum. According to Skaggs, OU is getting a great student who will be missed at Choctaw.

“He was a very consistent kicker,” Skaggs said. “Very accurate. He is a great kid. Great student. Always smiling and never got into trouble. Tries his best in everything that he does. He will be missed here at Choctaw.”

Another important point Cockrum is proud of is that he is a Native American who is going to a Division I program.

“It feels great,” Cockrum said. “I’m really proud to represent my tribe and continue my education. My grandmother is full-blooded Creek and it feels good to represent my heritage this way.”

Cockrum is the son of Jimmy and Kathleen Cockrum. His clan is Fush-wv (Bird).

# Iroquois Nationals share lacrosse with MCN

## Iroquois Nationals held two-day clinic for Oklahoma students

Darren DeLaune  
MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE, Okla. – Three members of the Iroquois Nationals Lacrosse team talked about their sport Feb. 16 at Stoneblade Restaurant. They spoke about the history of lacrosse and the Nationals themselves.

Iroquois Nationals player/coach Gewas Schindler, player/coach and co-producer of the movie “Crooked Arrows” Neal Powless, coach Ed Shenandoah and player/coach and assistant director for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Museum & Cultural Center Justin Giles attended the event.

The Iroquois Nationals are an all-Native lacrosse team that has competed in international play against the United States, Canada and England.

The lacrosse team is known for their tenacity. In 2010 they tried to compete internationally at a match in England but were denied boarding by the airline for refusing to use U.S. passports and attempting to use their the Iroquois Confederacy issued passports instead.

Powless spoke about why the team made the trip to Oklahoma from their reservations in New York.

“Lacrosse has been growing rapidly for the last few decades,” Powless said. “We want to give an



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
Gewas Schindler of the Iroquois Nationals works with youth during a two-day lacrosse clinic for students at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation capitol complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

opportunity to teach where the roots of the game come from. We want to share those with different communities.”

Over the course of the evening, team members spoke about the sport and the lacrosse clinics that they’ve held across the country.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger presented the members with a Pendleton blanket during the event.

While in the MCN, the Nationals held two clinics one for high school students and one for elementary and middle school students. Over 200 participants participated in the clinics over the course of two days including some students from the Cheyenne & Arapaho tribes who made the 192-mile trip to learn the fundamentals of the sport with the lacrosse players.

“It was an enormous turnout for us and it was great to see

so many kids and parents,” Giles said. “They [participants] were told about the history and culture of the game. Then we worked with the kids on their fundamentals and having fun with the game.”

On their final day, they participated in a game of Choctaw-style stickball. Members from team Okla Hannali (Sixtown) and Chikasha Toli traveled to MCN to show the similarities and differences between lacrosse and stickball.

“When the guys [Iroquois Nationals] made a trip down here for the presentation and clinics, they asked if they could play a stickball game,” Giles said. “They wanted to give a cultural exchange between their sport and our sport. It was fun seeing them incorporate lacrosse skills into the game while also learning the skills to play stickball as well. They loved the game.”



# Weleetka boy gets healthy with grappling / ju-jitsu

## Small town Hobia wins big at North American Grappling Association World Ju-jitsu tournament in Dallas

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Contributor

WETUMKA, Okla. – A year ago, Jeremiah Hobia was concerned about the health of his son, Zack. The 8-year-old suffered from asthma and obesity. Jeremiah Hobia looked for options to help his son become healthy and found it in the sport of grappling and ju-jitsu.

“I was hoping to find something that would help him become more active to help his condition out,” Jeremiah Hobia said.

He watched as his son stopped, gasped for breath and sometimes held his chest when doing outdoor activities.

Jeremiah Hobiah found a local trainer in the nearby town of Weleetka who was teaching self-defense to children. “I heard a trainer by the name of John Wolfe had created a workout gym out of an abandoned church basement.”



MNN/Gerald Wofford  
Zack Hobia of Wetumka, Okla., shows off the awards he won in grappling tournaments.

The Hobias visited and Zack was interested immediately. “I was kind of scared on the first day of sign up,” said Zack Hobia, “I met the coach, he [Wolfe] was cool.”

Zack Hobia soon got into the workout regime and found the sport required discipline and memorization to learn the holds and moves. “The holds were too tough to learn,” Zack Hobia said, “my favorite is the ‘armbar’ but it’s difficult to get an opponent in, so my new favorite is the ‘rear neck choke.’”

Zack Hobia became so committed that after a few months, Wolf felt he was ready for competition.

“We went to a tournament in Oklahoma City,” Jeremiah Hobia said, “He got second there. Later we went to a tournament in Dallas and he won first.”

The North American Grappling Association (NAGA) World Ju-jitsu tournament in Dallas was held in December 2012. With a sponsorship from the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, Zack Hobia was able to compete, “I wasn’t sure how he would do, admits Jeremiah Hobia.

“The tournament didn’t have anyone else in his age division so the officials asked him to compete in the 10-year-old division, which happened to be 10 pounds heavier.”

Zack Hobia won the age division and was then asked to compete against a 12-year-old who didn’t have anyone in his age division. The match ended in a draw.

Jeremiah Hobia said the introduction to these sports has literally transformed his son. “I think he is a natural at it, a leader in the gym; he gets along with everyone. I’m glad that he is healthier and his asthma is gone.”



# Henryetta cheer squad takes first at NCA Oklahoma Classic

## Six Muscogee (Creek) teammates represent on local high school squad

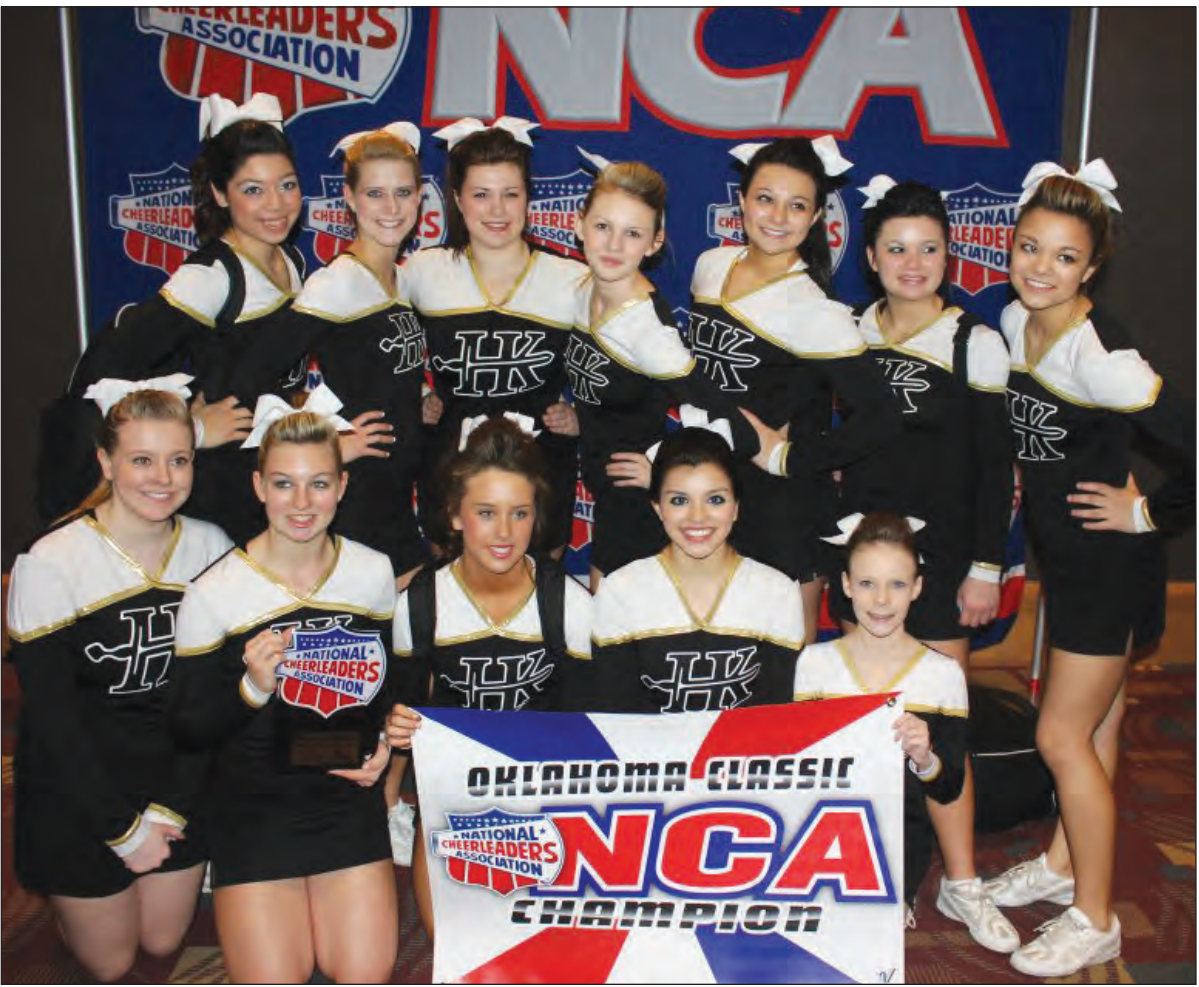
**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

HENRYETTA, Okla. — Competitive cheerleading is a growing sport and it keeps getting bigger. High school and college competitions broadcast on major sports networks such as ESPN and popular movies like “Bring It On” have brought more attention to these athletes who perform year round.

Henryetta’s cheerleading squad finished the competitive season with a first place win at the National Cheerleading Association (NCA) Oklahoma Classic in the Medium Advanced High School category at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City Feb. 2 with a score of 71.67.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Morgan Taylor, Chelsea Been, Kyra Najera, Kaylea Berry, Sharise Demmit and Haley Dunn cheer on the 17-member squad at Henryetta High School (HHS).

Cheer coach Jeri Finch is in her second year at HHS and does not



Henryetta cheerleading team takes first place at the National Cheerleading Association (NCA)’s Oklahoma Classic in the Medium Advanced High School category Feb. 2.

see the award-winning team slowing down.

“These girls are very hard workers,” Finch said. “They have went out and earned everything that they got through their hard work.”

Junior Morgan Taylor is very happy with the turnout from the season.

“We have improved a lot from last season,” Taylor said. “I have had

a really good time cheering with all these ladies. We got a lot done and we have a lot of fun doing it.”

Getting ready for cheerleading competition is no easy task with two-hour practices five times a week and two-a-days during the summer.

“It is a sport to us,” Finch said. “Our practices are as tough as other practices for other sports. We run

and lift weights too. We also have to learn formations, cheers, jumps and cheer pyramids. We have to do a lot of time management for our practices and to make sure we cover everything.”

In addition to winning trophies and training, in 2011 the team performed at the halftime show during the Liberty Bowl football game along

with four different squads. Live performance for the halftime show was K.C. and the Sunshine Band.

“We were invited to the Liberty Bowl,” Finch said. “Although it was the previous year, all of our girls that are here now were all there to attend that event. It was three days and eight-hour days of rehearsals to get ready and prepared.”

“K.C. and the Sunshine Band performed and we did the routine. The girls didn’t know who the band was,” laughed Finch.

This squad has already seen success in the short amount of time that they have been competing. Finch wants to have them compete at more events the next season.

“We would like to go to at least eight for next season,” Finch said. “We are slowly working our way up. One [event] will be at Dallas, Texas. We will see how we are progressing by the time Dallas shows up.”

High School principal Kolby Johnson shares the same sentiments as Finch on this season cheerleading team.

“They have done an excellent job,” Johnson said. “They have put in long hours and lots of hard work. They come in the morning before school starts and sometimes practice after school into the evening. A lot of these girls take tumbling classes to help them improve. We are very proud of them. They do a fantastic job of representing Henryetta High School.”

# Sixtown keeps tradition and culture alive through stickball

## Stickball brings tribal members from all over Oklahoma

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

ARDMORE, Okla. — “Centers, get back to your spots,” Okla Hannali President/Coach Jay Mule yelled to his players during a recent stickball game. “Shooters get up there and block for him.”

Stickball was used as an alternative to settle disputes and disagreements between neighboring town and tribes whom only wanted to use war as a last result. This is how it received the name “little brother of war”.

Today, wars and battles between tribes and towns remain in the history books, however, stickball is still as intense among the teams and tribal members that play it.

Most stickball teams play for their respective tribes or reservations.

Okla Hannali, aka Sixtown, is a team that does not go by that rule. Sixtown stickball consists of men and women, from tribes such as Choctaw, Mississippi Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), Chickasaw, Seminole, Cherokee and Kiowa.

Okla Hannali is an inter-tribal stickball team that began in 2004 when founder Jay Mule (Choctaw) was asked to help facilitate practices for another Native American Club



Okla Hannali, aka Sixtown, finishes a New Year’s Day stickball game in Ardmore, Okla.

called the Dream Catchers.

Almost immediately, stickball became very popular within the Ardmore, Okla., community. Over time, what started in Ardmore began spreading to other towns and cities.

“Sixtown is different because, I believe we are the only organized stickball team out here in Oklahoma,” Mule said. “I allowed anyone that wanted to play, to come play. If they wanted to learn this sport that our ancestors played I was very happy for that. It is great that there are other tribes that are interested and want to get involved and get a better understanding of stickball.”

Sixtown member David Watson (Kiowa/Miss. Choctaw/Okla. Choctaw), or “Smiley Wattz” as he is known among his friends, commented on the tribes that make up the Oklahoma team.

“This is normal for us,” Watson said. “I love how we have all these tribes together. We are not restricting ourselves to a certain belief or a certain religion that some tribally-sponsored stickball teams do. We are open to everyone’s beliefs. Whoever wants to play stickball and is willing to help get our team better, we want you on our team, regardless of what tribe you belong to.”

Stickball is played without pads or protective gear like other sports such as football and lacrosse.

There are 30 players on the field at all times for each team. Players know they are going to get hit when playing this sport. Injuries are common. Players have to be carried off the field at times.

“That is what this is [stickball],” Watson said. “It is the ‘little brother of war’. When you come out here that is what you have to have your mind set on, ‘war’. You have to get your mind right and get your head in the game and do your job for whatever position you play for your team.”

Jake Roberts (Creek/Cherokee), plays shooter for Sixtown.

“When I am out there playing,” Roberts said. “I am out there representing my tribe, family and Sixtown. I am playing the best that I can. I know everyone else feels the same way. Whatever the outcome is, I know that is the way it has to be.”

Okla Hannali has members all over the state and some outside of Oklahoma. Their ultimate goal is to get to the World Series of Stickball, which is held in Mississippi in July. They also play against other teams in Oklahoma. They also hold training camps and clinics for the youth between practices.

“One thing we want to instill is confidence and pride for our younger culture,” Mule said. “We want them to carry this on after we no longer can play. Not only does stickball help them culturally but it helps them physically as well. We as Native people struggle with a lot of health problems such as diabetes.”

Okla Hannali is considered a new team in this sport but a majority of the members have been playing for a number years.

“It shows how strong this sport is for us,” Roberts adds. “Our ancestors played over 100 years ago and they kept this going by passing it down to the younger generation. We are doing the same thing. It also shows the resiliency we have as Native American people.”

For more information on Okla Hannali, training camps, clinics and practices, contact Jay Mule at 580-340-1672 or Jake Roberts at 918-798-1463.



# MORTGAGE DOWN PAYMENT & CLOSING COST PROGRAM FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

Because many Native American families find it difficult or overwhelming to purchase their first home The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program is offering a first time homebuyer education class which will help prepare our Native American families for the road to homeownership.

The Homebuyer Class will feature guest speakers knowledgeable in the various aspects of buying a home. From credit and loans to finding the right house and finalizing the deal.

MAP PROGRAM .....LaDonna Northcross, Housing Development

BUDGETING/TAKING CONTROL.....Mary Thomas, OCCS  
OF YOUR MONEY                      Credit Counseling Centers of Okla., Inc.

IDENTITY THEFT .....Warren Austin, Fiduciary Trust Officer  
                                                U.S. Department of the Interior

LOAN PROCESS .....Larry O’Neal, First United

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS .....Mr. James Williams, MCN  
Environmental Dept. CLOSING PROCESS .....Debbie  
Haynes, OLT Real Estate Closing Co.

**March 16, 2013, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Housing Division 1st floor Conf. Rm.**

PRE-ENROLLMENT  
CONTACT LADONNA  
NORTHCROSS  
918-549-2554, M-F  
8AM-5PM

# EMOPONAYV

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. —  
OK, ready for the political bo  
mbs?

Wayland Gray, who was arrested along with two other members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Hickory Ground Tribal Town Feb. 15, was charged with making a terrorist threat.

He was with the group of Creeks attempting to pray for ancestors who were exhumed from the site belonging to the Poach Band of Creek Indians in Wetumpka, Ala. The Poarch Band is expanding a tribal casino and has dug up ancestral Mvskoke graves. But you knew that already, huh?

Two tribal town members were released from Elmore County Jail Feb. 15, while Gray was held on the additional charge of making that threat, a comment something like, 'after the casino burns.' I wasn't there and can't vouch for the exact wording but it was enough for the local Alabama 'good 'ol' boys' to take Gray into custody.

With this action, things have been turned up a notch over this issue. The MCN is now confronting the Poarch Band with a lawsuit over the disinterment of tribal ancestors to further develop the casino on that spot. At the same time, the attorney general of Alabama is suing the Poarch Band for having gambling that breaks Alabama state law.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and Brendan Ludwick, attorney for the Hickory Ground Tribal Town, flew to Wetumpka, Ala., Feb. 19, to post bond for Gray.

Tiger had to defend the ceremonial grounds and cemetery, the tribal members and to rescue Gray from the Alabama graybar hotel.

The Poarch Band says, "you Oklahoma folks can't tell us what to do with our land."

It's going to get worse, with a tribe versus tribe situation building. The mainstream media will be picking up that angle, with emotional sidebars of disturbed remains, a prayer ceremony being condemned and native activists being sent to jail.

Sounds just like the old AIM days, huh?

This may sound like blasphemy, but the matter should be allowed to come to a conclusion through the courts system now. That doesn't mean that the actions of this group of Creek warriors wasn't appreciated but that tactic can't yield any more benefit than it already has at this point.

In national news, Sally Jewell is President Barack Obama's choice for new Secretary of the Interior. She's the former head of the outdoors equipment giant, REI Inc.

In his nomination speech, Obama said, "She is committed to building our nation-to-nation relationship with Indian Country." That's it; no further details of what Jewell may or may not do as Secretary. Maybe tribes should look into selling sporting goods as a sideline? Archery or backpack teepees? Naw, nowadays, it's golf or softball.

Native people got no men-

tion in the POTUS's State of the Nation speech, (POTUS—that's President Of The United States).

NCAI President Jefferson Keel had his own State of the Indian Nations address. NCAI—that's National Congress of American Indians. He said, "Thanks to greater trust between tribal nations and the United States, we are in a moment of real possibility."

Much of the rest of Keel's speech spoke of things we already know: passage of the Violence Against Women Act; authorizing tribal leaders to directly seek a presidential disaster declaration, payment of the Cobell settlement to resolve the issue; overturn the Carcieri Supreme Court case that limits federal authority to acquire land in trust for Indian tribes.

And, he included a few other economic measures that would support and diversify tribal economies.

Washington U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell said a few encouraging words in her own 'response' speech, too.

She mentioned the Native American Housing Assistance Self-Determination Act; a farm bill that needs reauthorization; the Elementary and Secondary School Act due for reauthorization; making sure that the IRS deals with tribes in a fair way on tribal taxation issues.

Both Keel and Cantwell spent a lot of time recalling past experiences and acquaintances in order to elaborate and bring their speeches closer to the average folks. That part that makes me uncomfortable.

After having heard hundreds of these things, I'm a bit jaded and keeping thinking, "Get on with it," and say what's really important without all the window dressing.


Now for something closer to home, in our state's capital city, a Senate panel passed a measure that would transfer the controversial Native American Cultural and Educational Authority (NACEA) to the Oklahoma Historical Society. NACEA is the group that is supposed to be running the yet-to-be-seen American Indian Museum.

Sen. Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City, said the measure would bring the entity under an agency that has been responsible with taxpayer money and that is transparent. But that agency, the Oklahoma Historical Society, does not want the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority.

The guy who's running the museum now, Blake Wade, NACEA executive director responded this way, "I have no comment," he said, "I don't know what he (Treat) is doing or what his thinking is so I just would rather have no comment."

Now, that's getting to the point, sort of.

Wild onion dinners are coming up: Tafelmusik—here I come!



# SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

Every Thursday from 10am - 2pm.

Starting at 10am seniors actively playing with their White Buffalo Card in a machine will be eligible for one of 3 drawings held every half hour from 10am-2pm for up to \$50 credits on their player's card. Players will also get a \$10 match play on the White Buffalo Club Card and a ticket for a complimentary lunch at the Casino Grill.



**DUCK CREEK**

This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee Creek Nation Office of Public Gaming.



# Veterans' Scoop: Once a corporal, always an artist



Muscogee (Creek) Nation veteran and Purple Heart recipient Butch LaSarge creates military ribbon award prints.

**Ken Davis**  
MCN VASO Director

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Cpl. Burbán (Butch) LaSarge, USMC, has been creating his unique artwork since he served in Vietnam as a mortarman with the 3rd Marine Division in the mid-1960s.

“During my downtime [breaks] in Vietnam, I doodled with art as a way to pass time and divert myself. It was relaxing to create something from concept and put it down on paper,” said LaSarge.

Currently, LaSarge is illustrating military ribbon awards. He



has done a few pieces but the demand for his artwork has blossomed into a full-time endeavor.

“I price my illustrations from \$75 for a standard rendering to \$100 for a custom-made illustration. A custom-made example would be a Purple Heart ribbon with a cluster; I illustrate the Purple Heart and put on an Oak Leaf Cluster to signify the second award,” LaSarge said.

Artwork is available in limited quantities.

“I will only illustrate 100 of each ribbon. Each illustration will

be sequentially numbered from 1/100 to 100/100 and each will be signed by me,” said LaSarge.

He has made artwork for veterans and family members.

“I’ve had family members commission me to make one, two and even three renderings so that they could give it to their veteran family members as gifts,” added LaSarge.

The demand for LaSarge’s artwork continues to grow. For more information or to purchase a custom piece, contact LaSarge by phone at 918-777-0876.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT FILED  
2013 MAR -1 P 4:50  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
COURT CLERK

In re the Name Change of: )  
PMM ) Case Number CV 2013-35  
)  
)  
)

**NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Whom it may concern:

Julian B. Watson and Virginia M. Morales, for their minor child, PMM, born March 3, 1997 have filed a *Petition* in the above Court to have their minor child's name changed and the same will be heard in the courtroom of Judge Greg Bigler located in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District Hwy. 75 and Loop 56, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock A.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2012

COURT CLERK  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee  
District Oklahoma  
By Jabie King  
Deputy

## USDA farm discrimination claims deadline set for March 25

**Media Release**  
*Farmerclaims.gov*

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. government is establishing a claims process to make available up to \$1.33 billion or more to farmers who alleged discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) based on being female, or based on being Hispanic, in making or servicing farm loans during certain periods between 1981 and 2000.

If you qualify and submit a timely claim, you could receive an award of up to \$50,000 or up to \$250,000 in cash, depending on the evidence that you submit. USDA will also provide a total of up to \$160 million in debt relief to successful claimants who currently owe USDA money for eligible farm debt.

Farm advocate Alicia Seyler is currently filing claims for eligible farmers and ranchers who feel they were discriminated against, denied, or discouraged from applying for farm loans from the USDA.

For a claims package or for help filing a claim, contact Farm Advocate Alicia Seyler at 918-699-9850 or 202-276-2634 or visit: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) for more information.



# ATTENTION MUSCOGEE WW II VETERANS

01 February 2013

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) is hosting a Victory Flight this Spring. The trip will be the week of 21-26 April 2013, a 6 day and 5 night stay. The Victory Flight is open to all Muscogee WW II Veterans. The WW II Veteran is also allowed to bring one guest. The Victory Flight will take the Muscogee WW II Veterans from Okmulgee in our tribal bus to Tulsa, and then to Washington, D.C. via airline. The Veterans and their guests will be visiting memorials in Washington, D.C. and surrounding areas.

The purpose of this trip is to introduce our Muscogee WW II Veterans to a world of monuments and memorials that they helped inspire. The stops on the trip include, the National WW II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima Memorial, National Museum of the American Indian and the Marine Corps National Museum. Of our living WW II Veterans thus far verified:

**COON, Phillip USA**  
**DIXON, Mamie WAAC**  
**FISH, Eddie USAAF**  
**HARRY, Simon USA**  
**HAYES, Raymond USCG**  
**KNIGHT, Willis USMC**  
**MCGIRT, Raymond USA**

**GORDON, John USA**  
**MCINTOSH, Thomas USN**  
**MOORE, Tom USA**  
**ROBERTS, James USN**  
**WIND, Daniel USA**  
**YAHOLA, Miller USA**

Those that want to take this trip, please respond to the Veterans Affairs Office by 15 March 2013.

If there are any other Muscogee WW II Veterans that have not been listed above, and would like to attend, or just know more about the trip, please contact:  
**Ken Davis at (918) 732-7739 or Brooke Smith at (918) 732-7744.**









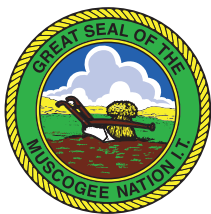


# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## Margaritaville comes to River Spirit Casino

APRIL 1, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 7  
"TASAHCE RAKKO"  
BIG SPRING



Rendering/Margaritaville Hotel and Casino

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation announced the Phase II development of the River Spirit Casino, which includes new Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Casino and Restaunt branding for the gaming facility located in Tulsa, Okla.

### Nation announces next phase of development for Tulsa casino

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation announced that it would be bringing Jimmy Buffett's

Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant as it's new partner for Phase II development of the River Spirit Casino.

In a gala press conference March 18, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger upped the ante in the competition for local casino patrons by unveiling the deal for the largest private development on the Arkansas River in the history of Tulsa.

The new project will add a 28-story, 500-room hotel, spa, restaurant, convention and meeting center to the tribal enterprise.

Tiger said the new partnership was exciting.

"The excitement builds because we're going through a 'branding' of our gaming. We've always taken pride in saying we're always at the top of our game when it comes to

gaming. I think Margaritaville is doing the same thing on the entertainment side of their business. I really believe it'll be a good partnership for years to come."

Tiger said the tribe had been searching for the right partner and the numbers added up for the MCN to work with the Margaritaville organization.

SEE RESORT - 2

## MCN National Council regular session held March 23

### Council considers legislation regarding housing of MCN WIC program

Sterling Cospier  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council was held March 23. During the session, concerns were raised over two pieces of legislation regarding the construction of a modular building for the MCN Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

TR 13-036, authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract between owner and contractor for a stipulated sum between the MCN and Icon Construction Inc. for the



MNN/Sterling Cospier

The current Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Women Infants and Children Program building is located on the MCN tribal complex in Okmulgee, Okla. Proposed legislation for the construction of a new temporary structure failed at a regular session of the MCN National Council March 23.

construction of a new modular building for the MCN WIC program was sponsored by Rep. Johnnie Greene. The legislation failed 4-12 with Reps. David Nichols, Pete Beaver, Lena Wind and Greene voting in favor.

NCA 13-066, appropriating \$487,173 for the construction of a modular building for the MCN WIC program was sponsored by Greene and was postponed by a vote of 16-0 for 30 days.

Secretary of the Department of

Community & Human Services Cherrah Giles commented on the condition of the current WIC building.

"The building is a health hazard and we need to move pretty quickly. It is probably full of water right now," Giles said.

Combined, the two pieces of legislation would allow for a temporary structure to house the program while the construction of a new building went through the planning, approval and construction process.

Rep. Adam Jones commented on the expenditure of funds on a temporary structure.

"My concern is that we need to have something more permanent and not temporary," Jones said.

Rep. Eddie LaGrone voiced concerns on the selection of an outside construction company for the project.

SEE WIC - 4

### Federal sequester to impact MCN

### Cuts anticipated for tribe's fiscal year 2014 budget

Rebecca Landsberry  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The U.S. Congress and the White House faced the March 1 expiration date to balance the federal budget, amidst partisan disagreements on which programs should face heavier spending cuts in order to avoid breaching the national debt ceiling.

As a result, the implementation of a fiscal control policy known as sequestration, previously put in place by the Budget Control Act of 2011, is now in effect.

The sequester resulted in spending cuts to a broad range of federally funded entities and programs over the span of 10 years and tribes nationwide are expected to feel the impact.

Under the sequestration, Native American healthcare will suffer.

A White House fact sheet indicated Indian Health Service (IHS) as well as tribal hospitals and clinics would be forced to provide 3,000 fewer inpatient admissions and 804,000 fewer outpatient visits.


Tribal members throughout Indian country will be affected by a reduction in state and tribal funding.

SEE CUTS - 2



MNN/Rebecca Landsberry





MUSCOGEE NATION  
NEWS STAFF

MANAGER  
CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE

EDITOR  
REBECCA LANDSBERRY

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
GARY FIFE

REPORTER  
STERLING COSPER

SPORTS WRITER  
DARREN DELAUNE

FEATURE WRITER  
GERALD WOFFORD

CIRCULATION  
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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN  
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RESORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Everything we saw— as far as statistics and things like that, we saw that they were one of the prime vendors of providing the means for people to come to various venues that they have, increasing attendance. It just seemed like it was the thing to do.”

The new Margaritaville will give River Spirit Casino a boost in the city where two other tribes, the Cherokees and the Osages have major gaming centers, Tiger said. “Gaming is very competitive, especially here in Tulsa with three tribes. We’re always looking for an edge and I think this will give us an edge. I think we have the best location in Oklahoma.”

The new project’s size will pack an economic wallop. The construction phase would have an impact of a \$225 million for the two years it will take from ground-breaking to completion. When finished, backers said it would generate an esti-

Tiger speaks at Tulsa AICCO event

MCN principal chief shares Nation's progress at local American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma event

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Principal Chief George Tiger was the key speaker at the monthly Tulsa chapter of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma’s (AICCO), “Doing Business in Indian Country” luncheon at the Tulsa Country Club March 21.

AICCO supports Native commerce in Oklahoma through memberships of American Indian individuals and businesses, non-Indian individuals and non-Indian businesses, as well as non-profit organizations whose work benefits American Indian people, tribes, according to the website.

Traci Philips, CEO of Natural Evolution and former chairman of



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger speaks with American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO) Tulsa chapter members about the recent economic developments at the Nation.

the local chamber, gave a short biography and welcomed Tiger.

“Chief Tiger has been very instrumental in helping small businesses,” Philips said. “He really does help promote the Native businesses within the Creek Nation. With him talking here today, he is letting everyone know that Creek Nation is opening doors to other businesses and to do business to-

gether.”

Approximately 80 representatives from different organizations throughout the Tulsa area and employees of the MCN attended.

“At the Muscogee (Creek) Nation during the time I have been Principal Chief, we have been really blessed. We have a shared vision of what we would like to achieve as a Nation. This vision is also shared

with our legislature, our National Council. We all have the same vision and we are all sharing the same journey,” Tiger said.

Tiger added, “We are doing as much as we can to promote not only our tribe, but other tribes for Indian businesses as well. In Indian Country, we learn to help each other. That is natural. That is our way.”

CUTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In Oklahoma, education, public health care and nutrition programs will see budget cuts that could impact men, women, children and seniors living in the state.

According to White House statistics, an estimated 40 fewer schools would receive funding. Head start program funding and education for children with disabilities would decrease, eliminating 90 teachers, aides and staff positions.

On a tribal level, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) is bracing for 10 percent cuts across the board. According to MCN Chief of Staff Bo Colbert, \$12-\$15 million would be a worst-case scenario.

“Even though there’s a nine percent across-the-board cut nationally, as it filters down to various services and the program levels, it’s generally going to be more like five percent when it comes to the programs,” Colbert said.

Many MCN service-based pro-

grams are funded with a combination of tribal and federal dollars.

“We do have substantial amounts of federal funds and that does include some governance monies,” Colbert said.

Because the sequester arrived mid-fiscal year for the MCN, the full impact on the MCN may not be seen until Oct. 1, the beginning of FY2014.

“We’re into the fiscal year ‘13 and all the monies have been allocated for the fiscal year... That will minimize a lot of the impact but as far as actual jobs and services, how that will be impacted, we don’t know yet because we don’t what the actual percentages are per program,” Colbert said.

According to Colbert, the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year would be submitted to the MCN National Council for approval before the end of June.

“It’s going to make a difficult fiscal planning year for us because of the sequestration... It’s probably going to probably delay some of our

budget planning until we get a good handle on this. We may have to push it back,” Colbert said.

Federal funding may be declining but the rise in services is ongoing.

MCN Children and Family Services (CFS) Administration Manager Carmin Tecumseh-Williams said some of the programs that may be affected are Indian Child Welfare (ICW) and Safe and Stable Families (SSF).

“With our ICW, we’re going to be cut five percent and with our SSF we’re gonna be cut 5.1 percent. It looks like it’s not going to hit us as hard as we thought it was going to,” Tecumseh said.

Tecumseh said if cuts do have to be made, the first items considered would be non-essential expenses, such as supplies. Jobs would be among the last.

“I would hate to, at all, even consider having to let anyone go because of that [budget cuts] but at the same time, we’re going to do what’s best for the Nation and provide for our families and provide for our children in

order to make up for those cuts if we had to,” she said.

She said the department would consider attending local staff training to cut back on mileage and travel expenses. If necessary, a hiring freeze would also be implemented.

“Fortunately, right now we’re fully staffed... it doesn’t appear that we’re going to get to that point of having to let anyone go at all but at the same time, if we did hit that point, we would not be doing any new hires whatsoever,” Tecumseh said.

She said the department is also pursuing external grants that could be used to enhance for foster care and adoption programs as well as Child Protective Services (CPS).

“We would have to provide the services and then be reimbursed for that,” she said.

According to Tecumseh, an impact to client services would be a last resort.

“As far as cutting direct services to clients, that will definitely be the very last thing we could do,” Tecumseh said.

mated 800 new permanent jobs at the resort. Ground-breaking for the new resort is expected in the fall of 2013. The new addition would take an estimated two years to complete. The payroll would be somewhere around \$38 million annually.

John Cohan represented the Margaritaville organization. He said they wanted to add the experience of Jimmy Buffett leisure and fun to Tulsa.

“Our interest was really bringing our lifestyle to Tulsa. The tribal government had the same vision we did, which was to create a destination resort that was going to be fun and high quality. As we began to meet with them and understand how their vision was the same as ours, it just seemed like a natural project to pursue.”

Cohan said this project is the first collaboration with a tribal government and that he looked forward to doing more. Entertainer and musician Jimmy Buffett wrote that he was excited about the new

venture, excited to be on the water (the Arkansas River) and returning for future musical performances in Tulsa.

Tulsa Mayor Dewey

Bartlett called the announcement “outstanding news” and good news for Tulsa, “I think this is one of the more important news breaks that we’ve had in quite some time.”

According to Bartlett, the MCN

and its business ventures have a very positive impact on the Tulsa economy, “I think it grows bigger and bigger. Growth is very good for the city of Tulsa and its very good for the community around Tulsa. At the end of the day,

With the planned new gaming facility joining the other two tribal casinos in the area, Bartlett said, the competition would be beneficial, “In Tulsa, we’re very fortunate

because it provides so many different venues of entertainment. It will become a terrific attraction. Tulsa will become, and is, a destination place. We can use that capability of encouraging more business to come to Tulsa because there’s more things to do.”

Besides a new 22-story glass hotel tower, approximately 45,000 square feet of new gaming space will be branded as the Margaritaville Casino. A Margaritaville-branded showroom theater will seat 2,400 people. Another 100 people would be seated in VIP suites, lounges and reception area.

In his press statement, Jimmy Buffett added, “I am happy to bring a few palm trees and frozen concoctions to the banks of the Arkansas River. The first time I ever saw Tulsa was from the stage at Cain’s Ballroom a while back. It is an honor to be returning as part of this great new complex in association with River Spirit and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.”





# Chaudhuri inducted into Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame

Family of Jean Chaudhuri discuss her life accomplishments

Sterling Cosper  
MNN Reporter

PHOENIX — “She urged Indians to never lose sight of where they came from. She always believed in the importance of the concept of community,” said Joy-otpaul (Joy) Chaudhuri about his wife, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jean Chaudhuri who was inducted into the Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame during a ceremony March 14 at Carnegie Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

Her encouragement of Native people to remember their origins and belief that Native Americans should act as community more than individuals is reflected in two of Jean Chaudhuri’s most notable life accomplishments: her book on Muscogee (Creek) peoplehood A Sacred Path: The Way of the Muscogee Creeks and her work in ensuring that the Phoenix Indian Boarding School (PIBS) property was held for public use after its close in 1988.

Ella Jean Hill-Chaudhuri or Hiyvtke (early dawn in Mvskoke) a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Bear Clan, was born in 1937 and grew up on an allotment outside of Okemah, Okla., belonging to James Scott her clan grandfather.

Jean Chaudhuri learned Muscogee (Creek) values from Scott who walked the Trail of Tears as a young boy and was the only member of his family to survive the journey to new Indian Territory.

“She grew up knowing the ceremonial grounds lifestyle and those old stories from James Scott,” said Jean Chaudhuri’s son Jonodev (Jon) Chaudhuri.

Other members of her family attended church, which she also found intriguing.

“The difference in these backgrounds always interested her and she was always and curious person,” said Jon Chaudhuri.

It was this curiosity that Jean Chaudhuri to continue gathering more information on Muscogee (Creek) culture throughout her life, information that would ultimately culminate into the contents of the book A Sacred Path.

Equally curious about Native



Photo submitted/Chaudhuri family and Arizona State Library  
This photo of Muscogee (Creek) activist, storyteller and author Jean Chaudhuri will be featured in the Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame exhibit at Carnegie in Phoenix, Ariz.

American history, Joy Chaudhuri moved from Calcutta, India to Oklahoma where he would meet his future wife and eventually collaborate with her on this comprehensive summary of Muscogee (Creek) cosmology, history and culture.

As a retired academic professional he lent his academic experience to the project.

“I just took notes and listened to her; she is the writer of that book,” said Joy Chaudhuri.

A Sacred Path is comprised formal research, oral history and family history accumulated by Jean Chaudhuri from Oklahoma, Georgia, Alabama and even Seminole territory while her family lived in Florida.

“Our house was always full of boxes, books and notes...even if she was on a plane she would always carry two different boxes in her hands. In the trunk of her car there were always boxes,” said Joy Chaudhuri.

She was not only proficient as an author but also as a storyteller and orator, which is all the more impressive considering English was her third language.

“She went to Eufaula Boarding School...during those old boarding school days, people who were

sent there didn’t speak much English so Creek was her first language and because her family knew a lot of Cherokees...she learned Cherokee before she learned English,” said Joy Chaudhuri.

Jean Chaudhuri ran away several times during her time at Eufaula Indian Boarding School.

Later in her life she would fight to keep the former site of another boarding school, which had become a symbol of Native perseverance despite its assimilationist history from being developed by a major corporation.

“Over the years it was an arm of assimilationist policies and like so many other boarding schools, kids were forced to cut their hair and couldn’t speak their language,” said Jon Chaudhuri.

For more information about the Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame visit:

<http://www.azlibrary.gov/az-whf/>

To view a video of Jean Chaudhuri at the former PIBS:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kD5vhtAiOY>

For more information about the PIBS:

<http://archive.archaeology.org/online/features/phoenix/>

# Marks inducted into USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame

Creek martial artist veteran inducted into Hall of Heroes

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Contributor

NEWARK, N.J. — William ‘Chebon’ Marks was inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame or “Hall of Heroes” March 2 in Newark, N.J.

Marks was also recognized as the “Native American Martial Arts Master of the Year” by the organization.

“I feel very honored to have received this,” Marks said. “The Grand Master of the Hall of Fame nominated me,” Marks said.

Only 125 of 2,500 applicants are selected for this honor each year.

Marks was required to conduct a seminar for other martial arts masters as part of his induction.

“I have never done this. Other masters were looking on, I had an hour to conduct the seminar,” he said. It included variations of martial arts defense and weapons.

Marks said he began studying martial arts at the age of 24, however, the motivation began at a younger age.

“I was eight and I was watching a television show with a celebrity named Ed Parker and

he knew how to defend himself with Karate. After watching that program, I knew what I wanted to become,” Marks remembered.

After spending time in foster homes and boarding schools throughout his youth, Marks joined the military in 1967 and became fully engrossed in the martial arts arena.

Marks eventually earned the rank of 10th degree Grand Master.

Marks began his own organization, “Chebon’s Native American Mixed Martial Arts,” which is represented by a unique logo.

“The red on the fist represents the red man and power, the pipe that is being held means the choice of peace or war and the Japanese words implemented mean ‘way of the warrior.’ ”

To his knowledge, he is the only Native American to have received this acclamation.

“I know there are several Native American martial art-

ists out there and I would like to get to know them, because this is something that I will always do, until the day I die,” Marks said.

Although he was commended and congratulated by many the

night of his induction, Marks was glad that one special person could be there.

“I was so glad that my sister, Johnnie, was able to attend the ceremony.”



MNN/Gerald Wofford

William ‘Chebon’ Marks was inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame March 2 in Newark, N.J.

A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a light blue shirt, is smiling and holding a fan of US dollar bills. The background is red with white and yellow text.

# SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

Every Thursday from 10am - 2pm.

Starting at 10am seniors actively playing with their White Buffalo Card in a machine will be eligible for one of 3 drawings held every half hour from 10am-2pm for up to \$50 credits on their player’s card. Players will also get a \$10 match play on the White Buffalo Club Card and a ticket for a complimentary lunch at the Casino Grill.

The logo for Creek Nation Casino, featuring a green and yellow design with the words 'CREEK NATION Casino' and 'DUCK CREEK' below it.

This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee Creek Nation Office of Public Gaming.



# TANF office helps those to help themselves

Together Advancing Native Families fills former ‘welfare’ role with requirement for work or education

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla.—In 1996, the Welfare Reform Act changed the way assistance to needy Americans nationwide was distributed to include requirements for work and self-sufficiency. Welfare in its older, ‘hand-out’ form was eliminated. All assistance was tied to having families take part in some sort of work or educational experience aimed at making families and individuals self-sufficient.

For eligible citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN), that means this support will come from the Together Advancing Native Families (TANF) program. To obtain assistance, TANF requires all applicants to participate in work-related activities and or education.

Neenah Tiger, Manager of the MCN TANF program, tries to keep a positive spin on the federally funded program.

“We would like for them to know that this is a plan to help them obtain self-sufficiency, hence the ‘advancing.’ Taking away the stigma for the ‘needy’ and the welfare, we’ve put the ‘Native Families’ because we are a tribal TANF program and we serve all federally recognized tribes.”

The TANF brochure spells out what is expected of applicants, “Welfare reform focuses on work and self-sufficiency. The nature of TANF is temporary. These two inherent factors challenge the program and its clients to provide opportunities for life-changing choices.”

According to the four purposes, TANF aims to ensure children are cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; to end



MNN/Gary Fife

Neenah Tiger points to caseload numbers at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Together Assisting Native Families (TANF) office.

the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage; to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and, to encourage the formation of two-parent families.

Qualified applicants may still receive benefits to help them meet their needs but the requirement employment or work-related education must be part of the program.

“We have a monthly cash assistance that we provide every month. With attaining self-sufficiency, they’re required to engage in work participation. That could be education, job skills, enhancing their current job base and we provide work incentives for that.”

In keeping with federal guidelines, Tiger said TANF places a high priority on employment and career-related learning experiences.

“For us in particular, our single parent families are required to do 20 hours per week. That’s in obtaining further education,

or obtaining their GED (Graduate Equivalency Diploma). Also, learning additional job skills or searching for work.”

Additional benefits for compliance with the required experience could mean credit for classroom attendance, study time and travel time. Employment and youth supportive services are provided. That includes help in preparing resumes, interviewing skills and placement in volunteer sites.

As with most programs, applicants must meet eligibility guidelines and be able to provide documentation.

“We do have income guidelines. Also, they have to be enrolled in a federally-recognized tribe. We don’t accept CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) cards, they have to be enrolled. Depending on the area that they live in—the county, they could be Creek or another federally recognized tribe. They have to have the common documents—the birth certificates and the Social Security cards. They have to show custody and file for child support,

which is one of those third-party resources.”

The typical applicant, Tiger explained, is a single parent, male or female, unemployed or attending school. The applicants usually just need a little bit of assistance to get them through a ‘rough period,’ she said.

Clients may receive TANF for a period up to 60 months or five years total. Assistance from any state agency or other tribe counts in this total limitation of service.

A family unit is defined as a one-or-two parent household with one or more minor children. At least one of the family members must meet the tribal citizenship requirement. Also recognized is a family member with a minor child that might have a kinship with someone meeting the tribal citizenship requirement.

The goal of prevention and reduction of out-of-wedlock pregnancies is another TANF goal.

“We have the grandparents raising grandchildren or what we deem our ‘child only’ cases. We carry a steady load of 40 of those

cases. Usually it can range from a grandparent with one grandchild or it can be up to three or four grandchildren who have made the decision to take care of their own.”

TANF provides support for an average of 150 cases per month. Their caseload has been on the increase over the years, Tiger said, due to national economics.

“When we first began in 2008, we started with about 70 cases. So, we’ve doubled that over the years. Probably with the nation as a whole and with the financial constraints that are out there, we’ve seen a lot more cases come in with our families.”

One encouraging trend, Tiger believes, is clients wanting to fill their educational gaps. If they do, she said, it pays off.

“The most interest currently, is with individuals wanting to obtain or advance their education. We do have a number of clients that do not have their GEDs. We really push for them to obtain that. We provide incentives if they obtain their GED or higher education. We also have individuals that are being placed in volunteer sites that will, hopefully, lead to employment.”

Tiger added that, even if applicants don’t meet the requirements for the TANF program, they may still be referred to other tribal programs for assistance.

The concept of people receiving handouts is not acceptable, Tiger declared. Applicants applying for TANF support can expect to be put on a plan that requires them to work on helping themselves overcome their situations.

“To get you self-sufficient, that’s preparing you for the workforce. You have to show up to work every day. You have to do your job. You have to submit timesheets in order to get paid. We want to see them succeed but they have to help themselves as well.”

For more information on the TANF program, call 918-732-1979 or 1-800-482-7978.



## WIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Why would we give the job to somebody else when we could be employing our own citizens?” LaGrone said.

The final vote on both bills for the session was made after the meeting had adjourned and a motion to reconsider was passed.

After the vote, Giles expressed her intentions to rework the proposal for further consideration by the Council.

Other items on the agenda included:

- TR 13-032 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and designer/builder with Maska Builders LLC. For the design and construction of the Dewar Community Center. Rep. Pearl Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-037 Authorizing KI BOIS area transit system to display The Great Seal of the MCN on their vans. Rep. Sam Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-39 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a gaming machine vendor agreement with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Business Development Author-

ity Rocket Gaming Systems. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 11-4-1 with Reps. Dode Barnett, Keeper Johnson, Kara Medina and LaGrone voting against it. Wind was out of the room during the vote.

- NCA 13-055 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$97,040 for the creation of a Mvskoke Nation Arts Council and establishing a task force to develop, organize and provide a detailed proposal for its implementation. Medina sponsored the amendment and a substitute version of the amendment failed 5-11 with Reps. Mark Randolph, Medina, LaGrone and Johnson voting in favor.
- NCA 13-056 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$1,300 to assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen with educational expenses. Wind and Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-057 Amending NCA 13-007 (Authorizing a donation to the backpack buddies program). Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-058 Reaffirming support for the protection of the Muscogee sacred site of Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Ala., and authorizing a special appropriation of \$297,688 for the cost of necessary measures related

thereto. Reps. Franklin Coachman, David Hill, Thomas Yahola, Randolph, Barnett, Greene and Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-059 Authorizing a donation of \$5,000 to Fire in the Camp Ministries. Reps. Darrell Proctor and Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 10-6 with Reps. Robert Hufft, Thomas, Beaver, Greene, Hill and Nichols voting against it.
- NCA 13-060 Creating a new law in the MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 19, Chapter Nine entitled “Timing of special elections for constitutional amendments” and amending MCNCA Title 19, Chapters Five, Nine and Ten of the election code. Greene sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely 16-0.
- Greene made the motion to postpone indefinitely, “...to give our attorney’s a chance to go over it.
- NCA 13-061 Authorizing a donation of \$75,000 to assist the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative for continued operations. Wind, Medina, Randolph and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-062 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$107,628 to the Veterans Affairs

Services Office fiscal year 2013 budget. Jones, Proctor and Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-063 Authorizing a donation of \$5,375.92 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Ade and Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-5 with Barnett, Hill, Jones, Proctor and Yahola voting against it.
- NCA 13-064 Authorizing a donation of \$13,500 to assist the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC) in hosting the 2013 annual OIMC of the United Methodist Church. Beaver, Greene, Randolph, Thomas and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-065 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$54,431.72 to the tribal driveways program fiscal year 2013 budget to purchase equipment. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-067 Authorizing an appropriation of \$19,120 to the MCN Athletic Commission. Hufft and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-068 Clarifying appropriations to the Euchee (Yuchi) Language Project Inc. for the period of April 1, 2013 through

June 30, 2013. Rep. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-069 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$976.25 to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Johnson, Medina and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-070 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$1,712.50 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-071 Authorizing a donation of \$3,644.55 to Morris Public Schools. Johnson, Beaver and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-075 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$1,100 to Miss Indian Oklahoma 2012, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-076 Authorizing a donation of \$3,644.55 to Ryal School. Johnson, Beaver and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-077 Authorizing a donation of \$2,000 to Checotah Public Schools. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

Rep. Coachman was excused.



# Muscogee (Creek) Nation bracing for tough fire season

Emergency Response manager describes upcoming fire season, offers tips to protect homes and property

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*  
OKMULGEE, Okla. — Citizens who remember what the hot, dry fire season was like last year, should be prepared for another one.

Creek country had hundreds of acres and many structures burned in raging grassfires in 2012 and the same conditions face Creek country again in 2013.

The U.S. Weather Bureau is predicting more drought conditions and higher than average temperatures. That coupled with lower-than-average water levels means this year's fire danger will be high to extreme again.

James Nichols, Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Emergency Management Manager said it would be more of the same for his department. He remembers the wildfires of 2012.

“Looking back on last year, we were in a major drought that Oklahoma hasn’t witnessed in a number of years. With the dry conditions everything just kind of all came together at that one point in time. All it needed was just that one ignition source that day and that’s what started it off.”

Fire investigators say a carelessly tossed cigarette was the cause of a fire that burned thousands of acres and destroyed many structures in the MCN jurisdiction and in surrounding counties.

The Tulsa Weather Bureau described this year’s situation as a “D2-severe,” setting the stage for another busy wildfire season.

Nichols said the conditions are looking similar to wildfire seasons



MNN/Gerald Wofford

Structures and property were lost during the 2012 wildfires within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdictional boundaries near Bristow, Okla.

usually encountered in other states.

“Any time you don’t have moisture in the ground because of drought, you got temperatures over a hundred degrees and lots of dead vegetation lying on the ground on top of limbs and trees that we’ve had on the ground for years from previous ice storms, it just creates fire conditions that are just not known here in Oklahoma. They’re known in places like California, Colorado, where they have large wildfires every year. We actually saw those conditions that those other states have, here in Oklahoma. That’s not common whatsoever.”

Fires that race across Oklahoma grasslands, he added, are going to continue again this season because the conditions have significantly deteriorated.

“It’s gotten so much worse. The vegetation on the ground, farmers and ranchers not being able to

bale the hay because the grass dies so quick. They can’t get in there to do it because we have such a large amount of rainfall where their tractors would get stuck, so it stands tall in the fields. Once the fire starts, it creates its own weather. It’s been some of the worst conditions. A lot of lives and homes are at stake,” Nichols said.

When the Oklahoma wind pushes a fire across open fields, Nichols noted, firefighters are at a loss to keep up, much less contain the fires.

“There’s not a truck that drives fast enough to do it.”

Fires were moving so fast, Nichols said, fire crews would often have to get several miles ahead of a fire in order to construct an effective fire line. Even then, he cautioned, the wildfires often jumped over the cleared open space they had created.

“When you have flat, open fields, a fire line is not going to stop it. It’s

just going to jump over it and keep on going.”

Local and national weather sources are predicting another dangerous season as the summer progresses.

The MCN has coordinated with Bureau of Indian Affairs fire crews and local volunteer fire departments within the tribal jurisdiction to respond to wildfires.

Even with these resources, Nichols explained, it may not be enough. “In a major wildfire situation, it’s ‘all hands on deck’ and there’s not enough resources out there. That’s why they bring in so many from out-of-state when we have the fire conditions that we’ve had in the past seven or eight years.”

Homeowners and ranchers, especially those in rural areas, can take some steps to mitigate the fire dangers to their property — although there are no guarantees.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration recommends a 30-foot section around a home be cleared of combustible materials.

Defensible space — an area around a property should be cleared of vegetation, woodpiles and other combustible materials — deprive a fire of fuel. Grass in fields should be kept as short as possible; trash and debris should be removed.

A dependable water supply should be available. Nichols cautioned that well water supplied by electric pumps could be lost if electricity is lost.

A family swimming pool, a good pump and hose could mean the difference in saving a property.

Finally, Nichols offered, that fighting a fire to preserve a structure is not worth losing a life.

“People just need to remember that life is irreplaceable and material things, they can be replaced.”



### 2013 Senior Services Lawn Service Schedule

#### Mowing Season: April to September

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1&amp;3</b>	<b>Okmulgee</b>	<b>Okmulgee</b>	<b>Glenpool Sapulpa Jenks</b>	<b>Kellyville Bristow</b>	<b>Dewar Henryetta</b>
<b>Week 2&amp;4</b>	<b>Okemah</b>	<b>Wetumka</b>	<b>Eufaula Hanna Dustin</b>	<b>Muskogee Beggs</b>	<b>Open/Maintenance</b>
Lawn Maintenance: 918-732-7731 Secretary: 918-732-7765 Fax: 918-549-2950					
If daily lawn service can not be provided for any reason we will continue with the regular schedule.					
Community Centers are responsible for faxing in the sign-in sheet every Friday to Senior Services. 918-549-2950 fax					
Please call your local community center to sign up for lawn service.					
Seniors must sign in at the community centers on the sign-in sheet.					
Eligible seniors must be an enrolled Creek citizen, 55 years old or older, and live within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries and must provide proof of residence.					

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of J.M.V., DOB: 7/14/1997 A.J.W., DOB: 1/30/1999

Minor Children.

Case No. GD-2013-6

SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Lance Hall

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2013-6, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: J.M.V. and A.J.W., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor children.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 3 day of May, 2013, at 1:30 o'clock PM or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 8 day of March, 2013.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,  
Okmulgee District  
By: Betty Pack  
(Deputy)

Approved:  
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543  
McKenna & Prescott  
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
(918) 756-1112 Telephone  
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile  
*Attorney for Petitioner*



# Muscogee (Creek) musicians nominated for NAMA

## Success of 'The Joint Effect' a joint effort

**Sterling Cosper**  
*MNN Reporter*

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — Several Muscogee (Creek) musicians have been nominated for the 14th annual Native American Music Awards (NAMA) to be held May 10 at Seneca Casino and Hotel in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Among these artists are two members of metal group, 'The Joint Effect,' who, as a band, are nominated for Best Rock Recording after submitting their self-titled debut album.

John Holata the band's songwriter, guitarist and vocalist gave insight into the subject matter of this album.

"I would say that, for the most part, this record was from life experiences," he said.

Some lyrics are also derived from Mvskoke culture.

"He (Holata) has always referenced mountains in his lyrics. So I said, 'why don't we name it Ekvnhvlwe, which means mountain in Mvskoke,'" said drummer Eddie Mouss.

Mouss also feels his culture in the essence of their music.

"We have a song called Walk Beside Me. It makes us envision dancing around a fire... As a drummer, when I play eighth notes I can hear the shells shake or something like that," Mouss said.

Holata shared one oddly collaborative songwriting experience involving Mouss.

"Eddie had just left and it was kind of intense," Holata said. "We had been conflicting on some things and when he left I was good and inspired and that song wrote itself right there."

Despite occasional disagreements, the meaning of the group's name may give insight into their success.

"Basically 'Joint Effect', I figured there were three of us working together, it's a joint effort," Holata said.

The name also holds joint meanings.

The band's website <http://www.thejointeffect.org/> also describes the meaning as similar to the Post Hoc fallacy.

Post hoc ergo propter hoc is Latin for 'after this, therefore because of this.' This fallacy is described as the assumption: because A occurs before B then A is the cause of B.

"Trying to come up with

band names is not an easy thing," Holata said.

The Joint Effect bass player David Miller listed no one particular name when talking about his musical influences.

"I'm one of those people that claim everything I've listened to has influenced me," Miller said.

Keeping in line with the band as a joint effort, Miller explained why he doesn't draw too much on these influences when playing with The Joint Effect.

"I try to play what's right for the style of music. You don't want to go off on a tangent and seem like the oddball of the group," he said.

Miller began playing bass when he was 17 and Mouss began taking drum lessons when he was 16.

Their long-time commitment has started to pay off.

In June 2012, The Joint Effect played Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa, Okla.

"For me it was an honor and it has been one of my goals for years now," Mouss said.

Holata feels the same way about their nomination for the NAMA.

"It is definitely an honor just to be acknowledged, period. Just to think, out of all the people that submitted across the nation, here we are nominated," Holata said.

Amidst this national competition, Holata hopes his fans can help The Joint Effect win this award for their home state.

"We just want to get the word out and let people know this exists and get people to vote so we can bring this award back to Oklahoma," he said.

To vote for The Joint Effect in the Best Rock Recording category visit: <http://www.nativeamericanmusicawards.com/rock.cfm>

Muscogee (Creek) artists are up for awards in other categories including: Best Blues, Best Country, Debut Duo/Group, Best Gospel, Rap and Hip Hop. To vote for these artists visit: [www.nativeamericanmusicawards.com](http://www.nativeamericanmusicawards.com)

Categories are listed at the top of the homepage and a registration is required to vote. To register, click 'Vote Now' listed among these categories and select 'not a member?' to fill out the brief form.

Like, The Joint Effect, on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheJointEffect?fref=ts>

# Tribal Youth Coalition sponsors 11th annual Spring Celebration



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Several children at the 11th Annual MCN Spring Celebration took part in a stickball/lacrosse clinic in Beggs, Okla.

## MCN hosts day-long activities for spring break students

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

BEGGS, Okla. — What did the 2013 spring break have to offer Muscogee children?

The 11th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Spring Celebration.

The MCN Tribal Youth Coalition focused on ways to "Celebrate YOUth" at the Beggs High School Dome March 19. The free celebration drew hundreds of children to a variety of activities such as demonstrations of stickball and lacrosse, the Tulsa 66ers basketball team, inflatable toys, face painting and educational dis-

plays.

Natalie Barnett, Youth Coordinator for the MCN Department of Health, described the event's variety, "We've got all kinds of activities. We've got inflatables, we've got a cultural storyteller, we've got Kids On The Block doing a puppet show about anti-bullying, door prizes and we've got a new event this year—lacrosse and stickball demonstrations from Sixtown. We've also got a health resource fair going on with a multitude of our Creek services."

The celebration included unusual opportunities such as on-the-spot haircuts, beading and a "Snake Man" displaying live rattlesnakes and models of other native species.

Barnett said they wanted to fill in the time for local children out of school, "We're here just to celebrate spring and to celebrate our

youth. This is an event that we've put together so our kids would have something to do during spring break and just to come out and have a good time."

Besides the fun aspect of the event, Barnett added the Behavioral Health Program had an underlying purpose,.

"This is an avenue to promote family and child involvement, just to get the families together, the kids together and come out and have a good time."

When the day is over, Barnett is hoping that participants will be leaving with more than memories of a fun day, "I hope that they are culturally enriched. I hope that they know of some resources that might be available to them in their communities and maybe some resources they didn't know the tribe had and just to know that their tribe supports them."

# CMHI to participate in Tulsa wellness powwow April 20

**Media Release**  
*MCN Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services*

SAPULPA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services (MCNBHS) often partners with other programs within the tribe to offer the public educational, fun, and culturally appropriate events.

This year there are a variety of sponsored events the MCNBHS actively participates in on the local, state and national levels.

We will also continue a tradition of Children's Mental Health Awareness at the Restoring Har-

mony Powwow April 20 from 10 a.m. – 11 p.m., at the Westside YMCA in Tulsa.

The annual Children's Mental Health Awareness Youth Summit will be held May 9 at the Glenpool Convention Center, located at 12205 S. Yukon Ave., in Glenpool, Okla.

New this year is a partnership with Stand For The Silent (SFTS) and the acclaimed film 'BULLY'.

MCNBHS will be hosting a tour of the film 'BULLY' as well

as a discussion panel and things students can do to "take a stand" against bullying in their school such as forming their own chapter of SFTS and the Bully curriculum for schools.

MCNBHS partners with various programs and organizations to provide these and future events free of charge as part of our effort to empower and educate the youth and families of this great Nation.



**Photo submitted/The Joint Effect and Heather Baker with First Shot Photos**  
Left to right are David Miller, Eddie Mouss and John Holata of 'The Joint Effect.'

## Lightning Lists: Meditation Combats Stress

**Mike Cooper**  
*Muscogee (Creek) trainer*

TULSA, Okla. — Stress can play a big part in completing projects and working in a successful manner but too much stress can result in health problems but what exactly is "stress?"

Stress can be the pressure or the build-up of energy, which if not released properly, can result in negative influences on the body. In turn this can effect external life-changes in work and relationships.

Being too busy or over-booking can bring too much stress and lead to stomach fat or high-blood

pressure due to over-eating. The body may display the result of stress in diarrhea, nausea, chest pain and frequent colds. Sleeping patterns can be effected resulting in improper amounts of sleep, whether too little or too much.

One good way to combat stress is to do something relaxing to get the mind off the everyday hustle and bustle. Meditation can be interpreted in different ways but don't dismiss it as something strange, turning off the television or cell phone for a while and allowing a few minutes of quiet

can be beneficial for stress levels. Not allowing outside forces to be in control, breathing deeply and slowly, one may begin to feel relaxed.

After that, exercises such as yoga, zumba, kickboxing, walking or running are recommended to get rid of the negative physical symptoms that can be brought on by stress.

Take care of stress the right way and body, mind, family and friends will be thankful for it!

Stay healthy!



# Glenpool Warriors take top honors at MCN Challenge Bowl

## Glenpool Indian Education Program provides training for local Native students

**Monte Randall**  
*Glenpool Indian Education Board*

BEGGS, Okla. — The Glenpool Native American Student Association (NASA) serves the Native American students in the Glenpool Middle School and High School and routinely provides the students with a wealth of activities and events focused around Native language, culture, arts, history and leadership.

In addition, the program prepares students to compete in the annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Challenge Bowl, while emphasizing the learning aspect of the competition.

The Glenpool Elementary Indian Education program works with the elementary students after school for approximately eight weeks prior to the competition.

The elementary students are served by the Indian Education Program through special activities designed to introduce Native values and prepare the younger students for the curriculum taught in middle school.

The Glenpool Tvstvnkvke won first place in all three divisions of the 14th annual MCN Challenge Bowl in February.

The high school division had 32 teams participating and Glenpool sponsored three teams.

Glenpool Fire won first place. Team members are: Darian Bell, Jared Barnett, Bradley Hill and Brandon Bellamy.

Glenpool Land won second place. Team members are: Cory Tiger, Serena Todd, Elaina Harjo and Ryan McCutchen.

Glenpool Water placed fifth in the competition. Team members

are: Taylor Rockwell, Cade Bridges and William Sanders, Tyler Stopp and Amber Looney.

The middle school division had 47 teams participating and Glenpool sponsored one team.

Glenpool Warriors won first place.

Team members are: Taelor Dowdy, Chris Riley, Sadie Skeeter and Clay Osceola.

The elementary school division had 27 teams compete.

Glenpool sponsored two teams. Glenpool Mighty Warriors won first place. Team members are: Chloe Wilson, Se Anna Gray, Kourtney Morris, and Jadyn Williams.

Glenpool Courageous Warriors won second place. Team members are: Jeremiah Morris, Trever Fish, Kailey Littlehead, Jacob Todd and AJ Hudson.

The Glenpool Mighty Warriors were also awarded the Chebon Gouge Honors Team Award.

Glenpool Public Schools is honored to be a part of this annual event hosted by the MCN and looks forward to the spirit of the competition, which exposes our children to Muscogee life and knowledge. This is primary reason for the Challenge Bowl and every teacher, student and parent should be commended for his or her participation.

Glenpool is fortunate to have a dedicated Indian Education Program Team made up of: Manager Kristi Collington, Assistant Angela Jackson, Middle School Instructor John Skeeter and Elementary School Instructor Connie Wilson.

The Glenpool Creek Indian Community will be hosting a celebration potluck dinner as a part of the regular meeting April 9 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend and a special invitation is extended to all Glenpool Indian Education students, teachers and parents. Please make plans to join together as we honor these children and young adults for their great accomplishment and commitment to learn.



Photos submitted/Monte Randall  
Glenpool students took first place in the elementary, middle and high school Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl competitions held in February.

## 2013 MCN Challenge Bowl winners

High School Division	32 Teams
1 <sup>st</sup> Place — Glenpool Fire	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place — Glenpool Land	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place — Sapulpa Blue Turtles	
Wilbur Chebon Gouge Honors Team Award — Eufaula Mix	
Middle School Division	47 Teams
1 <sup>st</sup> Place — Glenpool Warriors	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place — Beggs No Names	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place — Beggs White Tigers	
Wilbur Chebon Gouge Honors Team Award — Beggs Battle	
Elementary School Division	27 Teams
1 <sup>st</sup> Place — Glenpool Mighty Warriors	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place — Glenpool Courageous Warriors	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place — Beggs Happy Girls	
Wilbur Chebon Gouge Honors Team Award — Glenpool Mighty Warriors	



# MUSCOGEE VETERANS HOUSING SEMINAR



**DATE:** TUESDAY, 9 APRIL 2013

**TIME:** 900 - 1200 (Lunch Break) 1300 - 1600

**LOCATION:** MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION MOUND AUDITORIUM

This seminar will cover  
“How To’s on •Financing a home •Refinancing a home •Equity Loans

For additional information contact:  
Ken Davis at 918-732-7739



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR APRIL 2013

## SPRINGFIELD UMC TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER APRIL 6

OKEMAH, Okla. — Springfield United Methodist Church will host their annual all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner April 6 beginning at 11 a.m., at the church.

Adults are \$10 and children 12 and under are \$5. All carry outs are \$10.

## SAND CREEK EUFAULA BAPTIST TO HOST WILD ONION DINNER APRIL 6

WEWOKA, Okla. — Sand Creek Eufaula Baptist Church will host an all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner April 6 beginning at 11 a.m. The church is located ¼ mile west of Justice Public School.

Adults are \$10 and children 13 and under are \$5.

## MCN CULTURAL PRESERVATION TO HOST STOMP-DANCE CAN-MAKING CLASS

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Cultural Preservation Office is planning a series of culturally related classes beginning with making stompdance cans.

A 20-hour class is being planned for five nights from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., with the date and location to be announced. The first class will be limited to eight people and will be taught by Billy Wilson.

Tools and materials will be provided. Muscogee (Creek) citizens wanting to participate may con-

tact Johnnie Wesley at 918-732-7733 to sign up.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING SET FOR APRIL 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — All are invited to attend the 2013 Observance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Day of Prayer and Fasting, which continues the long-standing tradition of Muscogee people and churches.

The event will be held from 1-4 p.m., at the MCN Capitol Complex Mound Building April 6.

The event is co-sponsored by Covenant Harvest Ministries Prayer Group, in Sapulpa, Okla.

For more information, call 918-447-4518.

## HANNA INDIAN TACO SALE SET FOR APRIL 6

HANNA, Okla. — The Hanna Indian Community will be having a grocery Bingo and Indian Taco sale April 6.

The taco sale will run from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and bingo starts at 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Lucy Harjo at 918-657-2381.

## CMN JOB FAIR SET FOR APRIL 17

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) in cooperation with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Human Resources Department is hosting the second annual Job

Fair in the Education/Administration building on the CMN campus April 17 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Current CMN students, alumni and 2013 CMN graduates will be attending as potential employees. This is a great opportunity for MCN managers and supervisors to screen potential applicants.

Current MCN employees are also welcome to attend and discuss their current job duties, responsibilities, qualifications, certifications, licenses or degrees needed in their respective positions.

MCN Human Resources representatives will have current job opening descriptions and be available to accept applications on-site.

For more information, contact CMN Dean of Student Affairs Monte Randall at 918-549-2800.

## AARP NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR INDIAN ELDER HONORS

OKLAHOMA CITY — Recognizing the important impact Indian elders have on the fabric of the state, AARP Oklahoma will once celebrate Indian elders at its fifth annual Indian Elder Honors.

AARP is now accepting nominations for Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors through June 1.

Nominations can be made online at: [www.aarp.org/ok](http://www.aarp.org/ok) or by mail.

## BENEFIT FUNDRAISER FOR JESSICA POWELL MAY 4

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A benefit fundraiser for Jessica Powell is set for May 4 at the Holdenville Indian Community Center located at 224 E. Poplar.

Funds collected will go towards cancer treatment expenses.

Breakfast will be served from 8-10 a.m., and will be \$8 per plate. Plates include bacon, sausage, eggs, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, and orange juice or coffee.

Lunch will begin at 11 a.m. Indian tacos will be \$7. Hamburgers, stew and chili will also be available.

Grocery bingo will begin at 1 p.m., and is \$10 for 20 games.

For more information, contact Anna Givens at 405-651-9454 or Alexa Grass at 405-584-0446.

## SMITH FAMILY RE-UNION SET FOR MAY 25

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Smith Family Reunion will be held May 25 beginning at 10 a.m.

The gathering will be held at Billy Ray Smith's home.

Please bring a covered dish for the potluck meal. There will be door prizes, a cakewalk, old family pictures and more.

All are invited for a fun-filled day and to reunite with our families. For more information, call 918-656-3521.

## Military artwork for sale

Ken Davis  
MCN VASO Director

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Cpl. Burban (Butch) LaSarge, USMC, has been creating his unique artwork since he served in Vietnam as a mortarman with the 3rd Marine Division in the mid-1960s.

Currently, LaSarge is illustrating military ribbon awards. He has done a few pieces but the demand for his artwork has blossomed into a full-time endeavor.

"I price my illustrations from \$75 for a standard rendering to \$100 for a custom-made illustration. A custom-made example would be a Purple Heart ribbon with a cluster; I illustrate the Purple Heart and put on an Oak Leaf Cluster to signify the second award," LaSarge said.

Artwork is available in limited quantities.

"I will only illustrate 100 of each ribbon. Each illustration will be sequentially numbered from 1/100 to 100/100 and each will be signed by me," said LaSarge.

He has made artwork for veterans and family members.

For more information contact LaSarge at 918-777-0876.

**RIVER SPIRIT Casino**  
P R E S E N T S

**TICKETS \$20, \$30, \$40**  
**ROY CLARK & FRIENDS 80TH BIRTHDAY BASH**  
April 12 7 PM

**TICKETS \$15, \$20, \$25**  
**HERMAN'S HERMITS**  
starring Peter Noone  
May 3 7 PM

**TICKETS \$60, \$70, \$80**  
**MONTGOMERY GENTRY**  
April 19 7 PM

**TICKETS \$40, \$60, \$75**  
**The Beach Boys**  
May 17 & 18 7 PM

**The River is Rockin'!**  
Get YOUR tickets to the hottest entertainment in town!

**EVENT CENTER AT RIVER SPIRIT**  
81ST & RIVERSIDE | TULSA | RIVERSPIRITTULSA.COM

**BUY TICKETS**

## Family dining now available at River Spirit Casino

Media Release  
River Spirit Casino

TULSA, Okla. — River Spirit Casino is pleased to announce that beginning Sunday,

March 31, families will be able to dine in Visions Buffet, Elements Steakhouse & Grille, and

Rain Bay Café. Guests under the age of 21 are welcome to visit our restaurants and non-gaming facilities when accompanied by an adult or guardian.

"We are excited to offer new dining options for area families, said General Manager Jerry Floyd. "Our staff has been preparing for this change for several months now, and our restaurants will offer something for everyone—including children."

Minors will only be allowed on the designated carpet, which is a different color from the gaming floor, showing parents and guardians exactly where minors may travel. Access to the casino floor remains restricted to guests 21 years of age and older and at no point will minors be able to participate in any gaming activity. River Spirit Casino is committed to following a strict Responsible Gaming policy and adheres to all laws regarding unattended children, underage gambling, and consumption and purchase of alcoholic beverages.

For more information on River Spirit Casino please visit the website [www.riverspirittulsa.com](http://www.riverspirittulsa.com).



# OBITUARIES

## EUGENE BROWN



TULSA, Okla. — Eugene (Gene) Brown was born Jan. 22, 1934 in Mounds, Okla. to Ted Brown and Nellie (Staley) Brown. He passed away Feb. 7, 2013 in Tulsa, Okla. at the age of 79.

After graduating from high school, Gene enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was proud of his service to our country and in later years enjoyed different Veterans Affairs activities and sharing his military experiences at different schools and events. His grandchildren were always proud to have him speak at their schools.

Gene was married to Alice Wilson Nov. 23, 1963 at Concharty United Methodist Church and together they had five children. He loved his family and was always ready to go fishing with anyone. He also had a wonderful sense of humor and never met a stranger, making everyone feel welcome and wanted. One of the things he was adamant about was that each and every one of his children knew their math.

Gene also loved the Lord. He spent a great deal of time reading his Bible and studying his Sunday school lesson. His closeness to God was reflected in how he treated people and animals. Hummingbirds were among these creatures and enjoyed watching and feeding them but his family was his greatest joy. He was very grateful to God for each of them.

Gene was preceded in death by: parents, daughter Monica Jean Brown, brother Felix Brown and sisters Frances Ryan, Ina Gibson and Jane Tiger.

He is survived by his loving wife of more than 49 years, Alice Wilson-Brown, sons Monte and Marcus Brown, daughters; Karen Brown-Harjo and her husband BeBe, Nicole Brown-Harjo and her husband Oscar, brother Charley Brown, grandchildren Regina Brad, Chance, Monica, Alexis, Samantha, Kayla, Sonny Boy and Hunter and great-grandson Venz along with numerous other relatives and good friends

## LOUISE FISH



DUSTIN, Okla. — Louise Fish, a resident of Dustin, Okla. passed away March 20, 2013 in Ada, Okla. at the age of 82. She was

born June 21, 1930 to Buddy Harjo, Sr. and Hattie (Brown) Harjo.

Louise grew up in Graham, Okla. and attended Graham School. In addition to her work in her home she worked in the peanut and cotton fields, at the sewing factory in Okemah, Okla. as well as custodian at Dustin, Okla. public schools. She enjoyed gardening, crafting, word puzzles and liked to play pool.

She is preceded in death by: parents Buddy and Hattie Harjo, son Billy Gene Harjo, daughter Barbara Sue Fish, brothers Buddy Harjo, Jr., Wilson Harjo, Muriel Harjo, Albert Harjo and infant brother Benjamin Harjo, sisters Mildred Fields, Peggy Carder, Myrtle Barnett, Lucy Burgess and two infant sisters and grandson Dale Mahan.

She is survived by: daughters Betty Mahan, Marie Smith and her husband Larry, brother Benny Harjo, sister Margaret Gann, grandchildren Brandi Smith, Larry Smith, Jr., Darrell Mahan, Debra Mahan, Jeremy Mahan, Cheryl Najera and Christy Pugh, great-grandchildren Eric Mahan, Lauren Mahan, Michael Mahan, Christopher Johnson, Mickey Randall, Jr., Shelly Meeks, Keith Mahan, Kelsey Mahan, Brooklyn Mahan, Kyra Najera, Kenna Najera, Presley Ledbetter and Jordan as well as a host of nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 25 at Shurden Chapel with Revs. Mark Smith and Benny Harjo officiating.

Interment followed in Wiley-Watson Cemetery near Dustin, Okla. Services were under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service in Henryetta, Okla.

Condolences may be sent at [www.integrityfuneralservice.com](http://www.integrityfuneralservice.com)

Pallbearers were Larry Smith, Jr., Darrell Mahan, Jerry Mahan, Micky Randall, Jr., Keith Mahan and Christopher Johnson. Honorary pallbearers were Billy Dover, Jackie Evans, Wesley Harjo, Muriel Harjo, Jr., Bing Gann, Bobby Harjo and Johnny (Chubby) Harjo.

## PATRICIA C. HARJO



A funeral service for Patricia C. Harjo was held March 13, 2013 at the Greenleaf Baptist Church in Okemah, Okla. followed by internment at the Little Quarsity Cemetery in Seminole County.

Pat was born Sept. 27, 1947 in Jemez Pueblo, N.M. She passed away March 8, 2013 in Tulsa, Okla. at the age of 65.

She was married to her husband Edward Harjo Dec. 25, 2005 in Okemah. A resident of Okemah, she worked hard as a housekeeper and was a member of the Catholic faith.

Pat is survived by: husband Edward Harjo of Okemah, two brothers Nazorio Chavez of Cali-

fornia and Raymond Chavez of Jemez Pueblo, N.M., and sister Mary Victoria Chavez of Jemez Pueblo.

Services were under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home in Okemah and officiated by Rev. Houston Tiger and Rev. Wayne Harjo.

Online condolences may be made at [www.parksbrothersfuneralhome.com](http://www.parksbrothersfuneralhome.com)

## JACKLYN SIMMERS



TULSA, Okla. — Jacklyn Ann Simmers passed away Feb. 12, 2013 in Tulsa, Okla., at the age of 58. She was born Dec. 30, 1954 to Curtis and Mary (Harjo) Simmers in Claremore, Okla.

She was preceded in death by her father Curtis Simmers, brothers Abraham and Curtis Jr. Simmers and son Reuben Simmers.

Survivors include: mother Mary Simmers, companion Ernest Bearshead, children Joann Crawford and Paul Tecumseh, wife Juanita of Bixby, sisters Anna Simmers, Valerie Simmers and Carol Thompson and her husband Herman, brothers Edward Simmers and his wife Wilma, Charlie Simmers and his wife Lee, Mike Simmers, grandchildren, Josh Crawford, Ty Copeland, Sunnie Ramey, Eric Ramey, Steven Ramey, Katie Ramey, Josie Ramey, Jeremy Ramey, Daniel Telles, Lexi Fixico, Angelena Fixico and Mija Tafv Telles, great grandchildren Amar'e Crawford, Josiah Crawford and Harmony Crawford and numerous other friends and relatives.

Other relatives include her brother the late Tobias Simmers.

Wake Services were scheduled Feb. 14 at Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church in Okmulgee, Okla.

Funeral Services were scheduled Feb. 15 at Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church in Okmulgee with Reverend Sammy Chupco and Reverend Alfred Berryhill officiating.

Burial followed the service at the Miller Cemetery in Okmulgee under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers were Josh Crawford, Jeremiah Thompson, Dakota Bear, Shawn Simmers, Steven Ramey and Eric Ramey.

Friends may send their condolences to [www.shurdenjackson.com](http://www.shurdenjackson.com).

## TOBIAS SIMMERS

BRISTOW, Okla. — Tobias Simmers, a resident of Bristow, passed away March 6, 2013 at the age of 55. He was born October 18, 1957 to Curtis and Mary (Harjo) Simmers in Claremore,



Okla. He was a member of the Newtown Methodist Church in Okmulgee, Okla. and he enjoyed making Indian arts and crafts, especially turtle shells.

He was preceded in death by his father Curtis Simmers, brothers Abraham and Curtis Jr. Simmers and sister Jacklyn Simmers.

Survivors include: mother Mary Simmers, daughter Rosalin Bigpond, granddaughter, other children, sisters Anna and Valerie Simmers and Carol Thompson and her husband Herman, three brothers Edward Simmers and his wife Wilma, Charlie Simmers and his wife Lee and Mike Simmers along with numerous other relatives and friends.

Wake Services were scheduled March 11, 2013 at Newtown Methodist Church in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services were held March 12 at the Newtown Methodist Church in Okmulgee with Rev. David Dunson and Pastor Charles Simmers officiating.

Burial followed the service at the Miller Cemetery in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers were Shawn and Nathan Simmers, Herman Thompson, Jr., Dakota Bear, Selika Tecumseh, Josh Crawford, Clifford Barnett and Sandy Roberts.

Honorary pallbearers were Ed, Charlie, Mike, Anna and Valerie Simmers and Carol Thompson.

Friends may send their condolences to [www.shurdenjackson.com](http://www.shurdenjackson.com).

## LEONA TIGER SULLIVAN

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — Leona Elouise Tiger Sullivan of Broken Arrow, Okla. passed away January 6, 2013 at Cedarcrest Care Center at 92 years of age. She was born March 31, 1920 in Coweta, Okla., to Nicey (Chalakee) and Thomas Tiger.

She married Jesse James “Bud” Sullivan April 6, 1950 and together they created a beautiful family. She attended Cook Christian School in Phoenix, Ariz., and was voted Mother of the Year.

She specialized in Christian education and the music ministry. In her last year she attained the highest grade by working hard because she had fallen ill and was in a coma for eight days that year. She was later assigned to teach children.

Leona was on the Nomination Committee at the district level for two years and was district lay leader. She spent three years at the conference level and was on the Fundraising Committee for the UIMC. It was her mother’s dream for one of her children to play piano for the church and Leona did well by her.

A preacher’s wife, Leona was always playing her husband’s assistant in worship. She would select songs to accompany his

sermons. She enjoyed beadwork, piano, word searches, reading, the children at church, collecting religious comics along with Sam Bradford and the Sooners.

In addition to her husband Jesse James ‘Bud’ Sullivan, she was preceded in death by: her son Joe Charles Woodard, daughter Janice Colbert and 2 infant daughters, brothers Woodrow Wilson Tiger and Bill Tiger, sister Ailene Kootekomtz and half-brother Joseph Tiger

She is survived by: daughter Peggy Colbert and son Obie B Sullivan, stepson James Lee Freeman, grandsons Gregory, David, Thomas, Jake, Reuben and William, sisters Ruth Crowley, Martha Reece and June Johnson, three great-grandsons, one great-granddaughter and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The funeral service was held Jan. 14, 2013 at Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church and interment was done at Billie Tiger Cemetery in Coweta.

## YARME (CHEBA) TARPALECHEE



TULSA, Okla. — Yarme (Cheba) Tarpalechee died January 20, 2013 in Tulsa, Okla. at the age of 61 after a short illness. He was born Nov. 22, 1951 to Elizabeth and Henry Tarpalechee in Okmulgee, Okla. He attended Morris Public Schools and was a welder. Yarme was an avid University of Oklahoma and Dallas Cowboy fan. He was very much loved by everyone and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a twin sister and two other sisters.

Survivors include: daughters Tracie Tarpalechee and Anesia Rabbit, sisters Twyla Beaver, Cheryl Grayson, Teresa Jennings, Tina Tarpalechee and Henrietta Thomas, brother Edward ‘BoBo’ Tarpalechee and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Wake Services were scheduled Jan. 24 at Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services were scheduled Jan. 25 at the Big Cussetah Church with Reverend Eli McHenry officiating and assisted by Reverend Newman Frank. Burial followed the service at the Big Cussetah Cemetery under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers will be Tony Berryhill, Brian Tarpalechee, Chance Beasley, Blue Tarpalechee, Darin Tarpalechee, Jay Tarpalechee, Kirby Jennings, Richard Long and Eddy Tarpalechee.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Wotko Long, Taylor Long, Gary Long, Buddy Beaver, Darrell Tarpalechee, Rick Powell, Terry Jones, Kelly Thomas and Duane Osceola.

Friends may send their condolences to [www.shurdenjackson.com](http://www.shurdenjackson.com).



# EMVPUNAYV

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla.— There’s good news and some bad news for Native women who are victims of domestic abuse, depending on how you look at it.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has been signed into law and it includes provisions for prosecuting non-Natives who commit domestic abuse on Indian lands.

But, it will probably be another two years before all the legal stuff gets worked out to enable such trials to go forward. The big hang-up is coming up with juries and legal proceedings that insure that those charged with those crimes get an impartial jury. That is a realistic concern in Indian Country, where everybody usually knows everyone else, or at least their families. A tribal community is too closely knit to just overlook that situation. For Native offenders, you’re going to be watched more closely, too. By the way, how many Oklahoma legislators voted against it?

Here’s hoping our legal eagles can come up with a method to make VAWA work effectively.

Margaritaville is coming to Creek country. The tribal leadership announced the deal to work with Jimmy Buffet’s organization to build a destination-type resort as Phase II of the River Spirit Casino. It seems to make good business sense as one way to compete in the Tulsa market.

Maybe it’ll be a good alternative for folks who aren’t especially interested in seeing autographed guitars. (Was there really someone going around collecting empty giveaway Margarita glasses at the gala?) The drawings show the Arkansas River as being blue. That’s going to be a good trick; that and actually putting water in the thing.

Sally Jewell has been confirmed as U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Seems she was born in England. She worked for Mobil Oil in Oklahoma for three years. Described as a great outdoors lover, let’s hope she doesn’t get jaded by moving from one Washington (her home is Seattle) to another Washington, (Disneyland on the Potomac). The view inside the Beltway can do funny things to you, if you’re there too long.

It’s wild onion dinner season! Tafvmpuce, hompvks ce! Have you checked out one of the dinners yet? The season will over—too soon, too.

Hvtvm cehecares!



# Green Corner: Alternative Energy

Mike Salsman  
MCN Environmental Services

OKMULGEE, Okla. — We’ve all heard the saying “Nothing lasts forever.” Unfortunately, this saying applies to fossil fuels. With a world population of over 7 billion, Earth, along with its resources, is being used at an alarming rate. The International Energy Agency (IEA), estimates that U.S. oil production will reach peak production, if it hasn’t already by 2020, followed by a global economic decline. Record oil prices, drought, and global water and air pollution are all factors that will force the planet’s hand into making policies that will use and develop alternative energy.

Alternative energy refers to energy sources that have no undesired consequences. Alternative energy sources are renewable, more affordable, and have less harmful carbon emissions than fossil fuels. Solar energy, wind energy, and geothermal energy are three major energy sources that this article will discuss.

Solar power, from an environmental perspective, is the best thing going. Converting the sun’s energy into electricity has the least effect on the environment as any alternative energy source. A photovoltaic (PV) system can be fitted for any size dwelling or business from a sky-scraper to a one bedroom



Photos submitted/MCN Environmental Services

Alternative energy sources are renewable, more affordable and have less harmful carbon emissions than fossil fuels.

apartment. The energy is trapped and converted to electricity. An economical yet effective way to take advantage of solar energy is to start with smaller components. Solar lantern, generators, batteries, outdoor and patio lighting are all examples of ways to harness the free and clean energy that the sun provides.

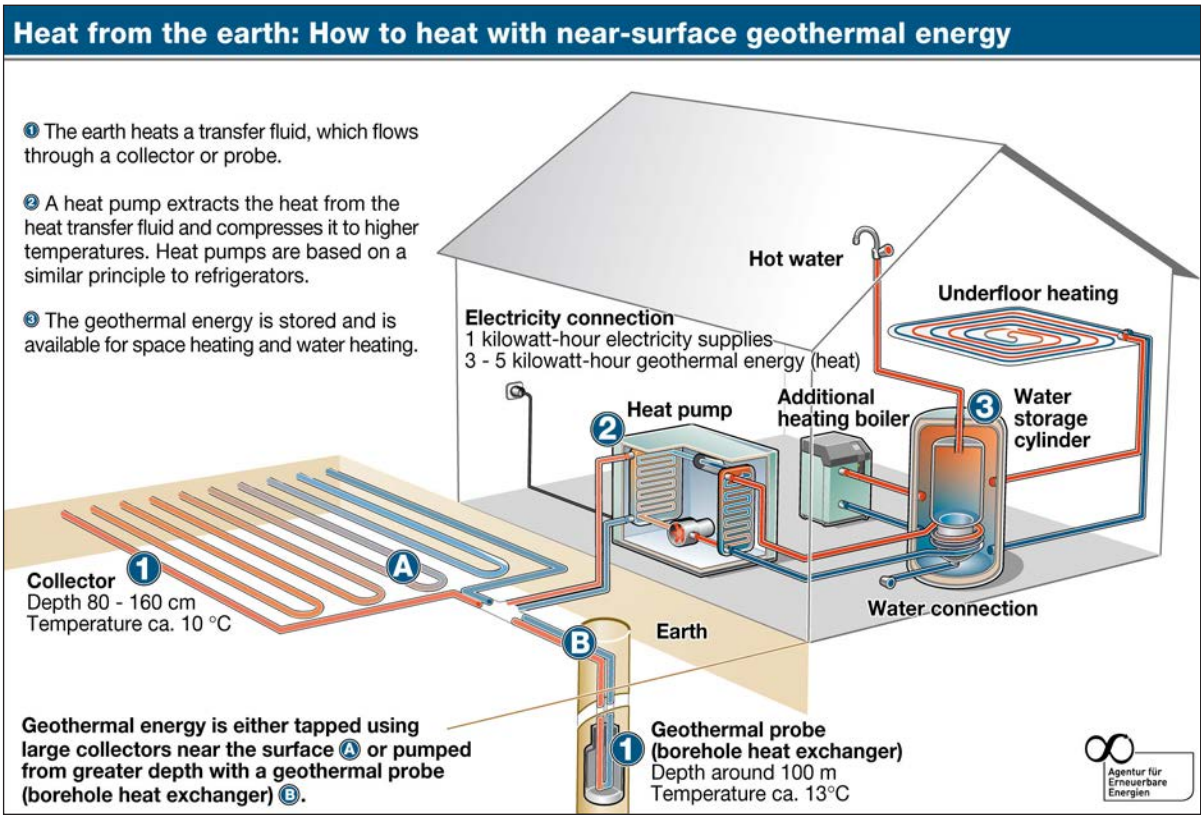
Living in Oklahoma, we all know well the power that wind can generate. We have seen wind remove buildings from their foundations, loaded tractor-trailers from

the interstate, even pull grass from the bare ground. While the negative effects of wind can be devastating, the controlled capture of wind energy could be the fuel source of the future. Although wind farming dates back to the first century, the United States is only now getting proactive about wind energy. Wind power, as an alternative to fossil fuel, is plentiful, renewable, widely distributed, clean, and uses very little land. 83 countries worldwide are now harnessing wind power on a commercial basis. The United

States is the leader in off shore wind technology, and is currently designing six large scale wind farms on the east coast.

Lastly, geothermal energy, or energy that is stored inside the earth, produces heat from radioactive decay, to generate electricity, power space heating, spas, industrial processes, desalination, and agricultural applications. Most important, is its use in generating electricity. Geothermal power is cost effective, reliable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. Using the earth’s stored energy also mitigates the effects of global warming. While drilling for these resources can be expensive, technology is developing ways to harness the power. In fact, Muscogee Nation is using geothermal energy in their new energy efficient housing.

I once heard an elder say, “ We do not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” Let these wise words guide you and your family’s decisions when it comes to using the earth’s resources. We have few fossil fuels left, so using alternative energy at every opportunity can make a significant difference. We should all have one common goal, to extend the life of our planet for future generations.



# Coming and Going in Indian Country

Joy Harjo  
MNN Guest Contributor

GLENPOOL, Okla. — Hensci—I’m back with the column, after many requests, and permission. I began writing these columns because I wanted to give something back to my people. To write them turns my mind in a certain direction and I discover ideas. And I feel the love of my grandfather Henry Marsey Harjo. He always feels part of these columns, this kind of writing.

I moved back to the Nation a year and a half ago. I love the smell of the earth, and all the bird and insect songs that accompany us on this path as we move about here. I love being with the Mvskoke people, for all our complications, contradictions and challenges, there is a beautiful spirit that moves among us. It lives in everyone, even those who test us. I feel that I am exactly where I need to be, though there are aspects of living in Oklahoma that are challenging. I have difficulty with the rigid religiosity that closes minds and hearts and infects politics. We’re all heading in the same direction; no matter what path we take. We are all children of the Creator.

My spirit brought me back home. It came to me a few years back when I was living on an island in Hawaii,

racing outrigger canoes and loving my home with its mango, plumeria and banana trees. I traveled to make a living and the distances between O’ahu and the Mainland didn’t bother me because I loved the land and the ocean there. The ocean remains one of my most important teachers. I always knew I would return home to the Creek Nation, I just thought it might be a little later. My spirit came to me one balmy night and said, “It’s time.” I argued and my spirit didn’t say anything, but just stood there with its wisdom like a beautifully designed blanket over its shoulders. Then it said, “This is what will happen if you don’t return as it is meant to be.” I watched my life unfold. If I refused I would have missed some of the most important opportunities and people in my life. I would not have fulfilled my promise.

I have many stories where I did not listen to my spirit. Most of us do. It’s how we humans learn. My life has made many wrong turns, but I believe there is that spirit within all of us that keeps us to the path, no matter how big a detour we might make. It’s kind of like a compassionate and all-seeing GPS. “Turn here.” “Stay away from that person.” “Don’t drink.”

This morning I was on Face-

book, scrolling down images, quips and stories. FB is one way I keep in touch with family, friends and a larger community. Much of the Mvskoke Nation is on there and it’s a dynamic way to find out what’s up. I spent many years in New Mexico and was very close to many Pueblo and Navajo people. I used to speak the Navajo language pretty well, even began dreaming in it. One of my Navajo friends, Norman Patrick Brown posted for his birthday by honoring his parents. I’m passing on a quote from his post:

“Always remember sonny boy, that thing inside you, that talent, does not belong to you. Even your voice and thoughts are not yours, for these belong to the holy people, your ancestors, and your Dinetah. So be careful how you speak, think and act.”

We are here to take care of the spirit, the talent within. Each of us carries gifts that belong to the people, to our families, even to the world. If we do not take care of them they will let us know. We will feel uneasy. We will not trust. And we will do things to try and take that feeling away, like drink, eat what doesn’t nourish us, or disappear with addictions, into some alternate universe, like endless Internet strolling, games



or shopping.

What I like most about being home is stepping out into the morning, before thoughts from the everyday world make noise and crowd out the voices, as Norman calls them, of the holy people. The earth and sky have a particular smell and sound here, unlike anywhere else. When we hear the birds, the plants, the winds and the sun, then we become clear enough to hear our spirit, which is the spirit of incredible creativity and possibility. Then we know how to act and we will make the steps we need to make on this short, Earth-road.

Mvto for this opportunity to serve you with stories, ideas and perceptions. Please feel free to email or find me on Facebook with any of your stories, etc. joy.harjo@gmail.com.





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# 5TH ANNUAL SEXUAL ASSAULT WALK

## APRIL 30, 2013

### APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

**Where: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building**

**Registration: 12 - 1 p.m.**

**Presentation: 1 - 1:30 p.m. (Followed by the 5th annual Sexual Assault Walk)**

**Featuring Guest Speaker: Sarah Deer**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Sarah Deer is the chair of the Office for Victims of Crime's federal advisory committee designed to develop protocol for responding to sexual assault in tribal communities. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder selected Deer as chair because of her activism on behalf of Native Americans and her experience address sexual violence issues in tribal communities

Participants who attend the program will receive a T-shirt, bag and mug.

Donations are accepted. Needed items include: hygiene products, new flip-flops or slippers, new apparel or new undergarments. All items will be donated to Sexual Assault Nurse Examination Programs within the MCN jurisdictional boundaries

**Preventing Sexual Assault is everyone's responsibility!**

For more information, contact Tina Qualls or Denise McCrary at 918-732-7869.



**PREVENTING SEXUAL  
ASSAULT IS EVERYONE'S  
RESPONSIBILITY!**







# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MYSKOKE MEDIA

## Express Care added to Okmulgee Indian Health clinic

New clinic will reduce waiting time, offer chiropractic care

**Gary Fife**  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla.—Access to health care in Okmulgee just got a bit faster with the opening of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Express Care health clinic April 1.

The MCN Department of Health renovated a 30-year old building and will use existing staff to meet the needs of tribal citizens, providing quicker access to medical assistance. The clinic is a much-needed addition to the system, according to Lt. Seneca Smith, MCN Secretary of Health.

“What we’re doing is taking the ‘walk-in’ out of the Okmulgee Clinic. We’ve purchased this clinic and we’ve turned it into a walk-in, urgent-type facility,” Smith said.

For citizens seeking medical care on that basis, the clinic offers more time options. “Right now, we’re going to leave it open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. In the next month, we’re going to evaluate and hopefully, we’re going to open it up before and after and maybe on the weekends. We’re going to see how it goes,” he said.

The anticipated patients will be those looking for medical attention



Muscogee (Creek) Secretary of Health Lt. Seneca Smith, Second Chief Roger Barnett, Principal Chief George Tiger and National Council Speaker Sam Alexander cut the ribbon on the new Express Care Health Clinic in Okmulgee, Okla., April 1.

with no appointment.

“They don’t need to go to an emergency room but they don’t need a scheduled appointment. This is an express care clinic, where we see minor cuts, bruises and so on,” Smith said.

He added that his department has been assessing their caseload for the Okmulgee clinic, especially the walk-in patients, and hopes wait times will be significantly shortened.

“That’s our approach, our goal. We want to make sure that the seating time and everything like that is eliminated. The patient cycle time

is what we’re trying to eliminate. We’d like to have the patient cycle time at 30 to 40 minutes. That’s from coming in and exiting, going through everything.”

Currently, Smith estimates the wait time at just over an hour. He’s hoping that the new Express Care clinic will cut that in half. According to Smith, the use of the new electronic health record should play an important part in that reduction.

The performance of this clinic will be analyzed as a basis for other plans. The Express Care clinic will serve patients for a month and be

examined for possible patient availability on weekends.

One of the newest additions to the Express Care staff will be a chiropractor and Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

The MCN is the only tribe in Oklahoma to offer chiropractic services.

Dr. Wesley “Bo” Dunn is now offering chiropractic services.

“We have a lot of muscular-skeletal pain, back pain, neck pain. There are not a whole lot of options to treat them. So, it’s giving another option to treat it,” Dunn said.

SEE EXPRESS - 2

## Obama signs third reauthorization of VAWA

Work ahead for tribes aiming to implement provisions

**Sterling Cospier**  
MNN Reporter

WASHINGTON — “Indian Country has some of the highest rates of domestic abuse in America and one of the reasons is, that when Native American women are abused on tribal lands by an attacker that is not Native American, the attacker is immune to prosecution by tribal court. As soon as I sign this bill, that ends,” said President Barack Obama during a ceremony March 6 for the signing of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

This concludes the bill’s third reauthorization, which includes provisions for individual tribes to prosecute non-Native on Native



The third reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, enacted March 6, restored the rights of tribes to prosecute non-Native on Native sexual violence occurring on tribal land.

sexual violence occurring on their land. The act defines this violence as domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and criminal violations of protection orders.

Despite the words from the president, VAWA states that this restored jurisdiction will not go into effect until March 7, 2015 — two years after the enactment of

the bill.

“I think that in many ways, it is an incredible symbolic victory. It does seem like an incredible victory but it doesn’t automatically meet all the needs of Native women on the ground,” said Sarah Deer, Assistant Professor at the William Mitchell College of Law and VAWA advocate.

A clause within the legislation allows tribes to exercise jurisdiction before this date if they are able to meet further stipulations outlined within VAWA regarding the rights of a defendant. Tribes’ compliance with these stipulations must then be reviewed and approved by the U.S. attorney general.

“This jurisdiction should be restored without conditions... but unfortunately that is not feasible politically. We had to attach strings in order to get it through,” Deer said.

SEE VAWA - 3

APRIL 15, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 8  
"TASAHCE RAKKO"  
BIG SPRING



### MCNDH dental clinics prepare for AAAHC inspection

**Darren DeLaune**  
MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health (MCNDH) released a memo April 2 in response to recent events surrounding improper hygiene practices by Tulsa, Okla.- based oral surgeon W. Scott Harrington who allegedly exposed patients to Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

The memo outlined standard protocol for clinics located within MCN jurisdiction. MCNDH Chief Dental Officer Jamie Campbell, D.D.S., elaborated on the clinics’ standard hygiene practices and infection control procedures.

“Our clinics use guidelines that are set-up by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Dental Association (ADA),” Campbell said. “The CDC incorporates a lot of different specialties and they work with the ADA to set the standards of practice specifically for the dental office.”

MCNDH Dental clinics have not used Harrington as a referral provider on any programs (contract health or pediatric services) at any time in the past.

According to the memo, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is recommending Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV testing for former patients of Harrington.

According to a press release from the Tulsa Health Department, free testing will be provided at the Tulsa Health Department’s North Regional Health and Wellness Center located at 5635 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Services will be provided on a walk-in basis daily from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

SEE DENTAL - 2





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NEWS STAFF

MANAGER  
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EDITOR  
REBECCA LANDSBERRY

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EXPRESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said there's already quite a demand for the service.

"Yeah, it's already actually getting pretty busy. I'm only doing referrals right now and we're already getting pretty booked up."

Dunn thinks chiropractic care fits with Muscogee culture, "Chiropractic, to me, has always been kind of a Native American tradition. Back in the day, chiropractic care had bone setters. I think Native Americans are going to pick up on it quite a bit. It's kind of a 'holistic' natural health care," he said.

Dunn will be available Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Express Care Clinic is located at 1214 Belmont behind the current Okmulgee Indian Health Center. It will open mornings from 8 a.m. - 11:30 and from 1 - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

# Alternative fuel could produce big savings for MCN

Compressed natural gas (CNG) could save MCN fuel costs and offer a lucrative economic opportunity for tribe's future

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla.—Compressed natural gas (CNG) reduces vehicle fuel consumption costs by about 75 percent compared with regular gasoline in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) vehicle fleet. The savings are according to a strategic plan being developed by the MCN.

Dean Lee, MCN Maintenance Technician, got the opportunity to test-drive a new Dodge Ram truck powered by CNG. His assessment of the truck was that it responded well to acceleration and it performed as well as the current gasoline-powered trucks in the MCN fleet.

What really attracted his attention, he said, were the savings.

"Basically, we have to do something; fuel (costs) are killing us all. We've got natural gas all over Oklahoma. We've got 24 inch gas lines here, we might as well tap into them," Lee said.

Currently, the MCN has about 600 vehicles in its total fleet so the savings could add up. Actual figures were not available from Lee.

Dealer Representative Rob Florey, of Chris Nikel's Large Fleet and Government Sales brought out a 2500 Dodge Ram Crew Cab CNG pick-up truck for MCN officials to test drive.

He explained the financial advantage of CNG.

"Compressed natural gas is a lot cheaper, that's the main thing," Florey said.

He estimated the cost at around \$35,800 for the truck tested by MCN staff.

He compared savings based on the price of a gallon of gas in late March 2013.

"If you're going from whatever it is today - \$3.59 to \$1.23 or even 90 cents, it's a great cost saving. So, people who run a lot of fleet vehicles save up to \$2,500 a month. It's untold—a lot of money," he said.

Florey calculated there could be a savings of almost 75 percent.

The vehicles run with the capabilities of other trucks, such as haul-



**MNN/Gary Fife**  
Compressed natural gas dispensers could 'pump' dollars into Muscogee (Creek) Nation economy. CNG vehicles could save the MCN thousands.

ing and towing with the same power as gasoline-fueled trucks. As an important side benefit, the trucks have less emissions and a reduced impact on the environment. CNG burns cleaner than gasoline.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation recently purchased more than 200 CNG fueled vehicles, Florey said.

"You're seeing a wholesale transition of fleets move into CNG just for the cost savings and it's better for the environment."

The future for CNG vehicles will be tied to the availability of the CNG fuel in specially equipped stations.

"I think it largely depends on the industry itself and how they're able to put CNG stations in. I think as more people buy them, the demand will go up, so I see it as being the wave of the future. If you get in front of it, you're going to realize the biggest cost savings."

According to Florey, accessibility of fuel will be a large consideration but the test model had dual fuel capability and the ability to switch from one fuel to the other. This solves the problem of running empty by having two fuel tanks. The engine will deliver the same mileage as a regular truck.

Smartphones can be helpful with an iPhone app that indicates locations of CNG fuel stations. There are currently about 60 stations across Oklahoma, including one at the Oklahoma Natural Gas facility in Okmulgee, Okla.

Both Florey and Lee are supportive of the idea of using a locally-

produced fuel.

Lee felt the MCN should be planning to build CNG stations to take advantage of the growing interest, which could result in jobs in the construction and operation of the CNG stations.

James Williams of the MCN Environmental Department said discussions of the usage of CNG are a regular part of quarterly meetings. He agrees that CNG vehicles and fuel stations should be a part of the MCN economic future.

"I think there's already a need for compressed natural gas for our future vehicles that the tribe purchases, say like our transit buses or our casino transit. I think that's the way we want to go," Williams said. "We have an ideal place put it in at the travel plaza if we can get CNG. I just came from a conference where a guy pulled out his ticket and said, 'I got 40 gallons of compressed natural gas for \$1.29 a gallon.' So you fill the big buses up with four or five hundred gallons, it's going to save you a few bucks. Instead of \$2,000, it'll cut you down to \$1,200 maybe."

Tribal officials are still analyzing current costs and projected savings figures. Costs for new vehicles already equipped to use CNG versus costs to convert vehicles currently owned by the MCN are still being compiled, but Williams thought the savings would be a sizeable amount.

According to Williams, a time frame for conversion of the MCN vehicle fleet to building a CNG sales depot has not been set.

"We're just trying to get the tribe educated enough where they would

have the great opportunity at the travel plazas to put in CNG dispensers and graduate toward the fleet type CNG vehicles. But, also, there's probably going to be more CNG vehicles on the road that we could probably sell to."

Williams projects CNG usage will be a wave of the future and a major characteristic of vehicle sales and usage. Public interest in these vehicles is growing, he added.

"I think that's a fuel that's going to have to be reckoned with, because the other fuel (costs) that are getting so outrageous. It's a cleaner fuel so this is something that we want to 'go green' with. This is just another step in the right direction," Williams said.

DENTAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MCNDH dental clinics employ 10 full-time and two part-time dentists who attend up-to-date training for the maintenance of their licenses.

"With our dentists, our licenses are renewed on a yearly basis," Campbell said. "With our continuing education we have to maintain 60 hours for every three years."

The MCNDH will be inspected later this year through the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). Inspections occur once every three years and involve self-assessment by the organization, followed by thorough on-site review by the AAAHC's health care inspectors.

"We have been preparing for this inspection for the last several months," Campbell said. "This visit from the AAAHC will be an unscheduled visit and from my understanding they will notify us and let us know that there will be a 30-day window on when they can show up. So our staff, along with the rest of the department of health, have been preparing for when they do show up. We want to make sure everything is up to their standards."

For more information about free testing for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV, call the OSDH hotline at 918-595-4500.





VAWA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A clause within the legislation allows tribes to exercise jurisdiction before this date if they are able to meet further stipulations outlined within VAWA regarding the rights of a defendant. Tribes’ compliance with these stipulations must then be reviewed and approved by the U.S. attorney general.

“This jurisdiction should be restored without conditions...but unfortunately that is not feasible politically. We had to attach strings in order to get it through,” Deer said.

Tribes wishing to exercise jurisdiction on alleged Non-native sexual violence offenders before or after the two-year period must grant the accused the right to due process as defined in the U.S. Constitution.

Jury Pool/Indigent Council

Deer, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, listed two conditions in VAWA that may cause difficulty for some tribes.

The first of these conditions is the inclusion of non-Natives on tribal juries during the proceedings for these crimes.

“There can be a lot of challenges to summon non-Indians to be on tribal juries,” Deer said. “It is a little different in Oklahoma but for some tribes, if you live on the reservation you can be summoned for jury duty.”

Tribes in Oklahoma, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN), share jurisdiction with the state, which has made it unclear how these tribes will summon non-Native jurors.

MCN District Court Judge Gregory Bigler addressed this requirement in an interview with Muscogee Nation News Editorial Assistant Gary Fife.

“It has to be non-discriminatory based on the representation of the community,” Bigler said. “We are going to have to have a way to pull non-Indians into the jury and we’re not clear exactly what that means.”

Bigler speculated on the possibilities.

“Does that mean the community that the tribe resides in... Okmulgee? Is it the State of Oklahoma community or are they tribal employees we pull for juries otherwise? Those types of things aren’t clear,” Bigler said.

Currently, the MCN courts pull jurors from registered Muscogee (Creek) voters, which means all eligible jurors are tribal members.

“We’re going to have to expand that to include other Indians perhaps and/or non-Indians,” Bigler said.

He listed some possible options including the use of non-Native tribal employees and advertising jury pool openings to draw non-Native volunteers from the general public.

The second condition that may cause difficulties is the provision of indigent council to non-Native defendants.

“A lot of tribes across the country already have public defender programs but those that don’t and who want to exercise the restored jurisdiction are going to have to create a public defender program of some sort,” Deer said.

The MCN already has a public defender program but not for non-Natives.

According to Cherrah Giles, Secretary of the MCN Department of Community & Human Services and VAWA advocate, the Nation has shown interest in making the necessary adjustments.

“I was so thankful for our attorney general Roger Wiley. The day it passed he called and said, ‘OK, what do we need to do so we can get our code up-to-date?’ ” Giles said.

The Cost/Appeals

Both of the conditions raise another issue.

“We can come up with some plans for how we would create a jury and the rights of the defendants but that is going to cost more money,” Bigler said.

The recent implementation of a new federal fiscal control policy may also impact tribes’ abilities to meet these requirements.

“I don’t think the challenges in the sequester are specific to tribal courts but everyone is going to be effected and that is going to make it more difficult for tribes to set up the infrastructure they need in order to assert this jurisdiction,” Deer said.

Deer is optimistic, however.

“I am hopeful that next year we will see more funding made available for tribal courts to apply for grants to set up the systems they need,” she said.

Defendants in tribal courts also have the right to appeal their case through the U.S. federal court system.

“Anytime you go to federal court you are talking about a lot of money to review your case,” Bigler said. “You can sometimes get away with \$20,000 or \$30,000. It can cost you hundreds of thousands of dollars if you go all the way up on appeal.”

Bigler, who has done federal litigation, weighed the possibility of appeal.

“We don’t know how often that would happen; if it would happen. You might get by with a quick motion to dismiss,” Bigler said.

Defendants in tribal courts are required to exhaust the tribal appeals process before they are allowed to appeal to federal court with one exception.

“If a non-Indian is being detained pursuant to tribal authority and there is a concern that their civil rights are being violated, there is one option for the defendant to appeal into federal court prior to the conviction and the exhaustion of remedies but the defendant would have to show pretty substantial evidence,” Deer said.

Despite the restoration of jurisdiction by VAWA, the federal government will still be involved in various capacities, some of which may be advantageous to tribes.

“There is no double jeopardy. So the federal government can prosecute someone and the tribe could prosecute that same person for that same crime because they are not the same sovereign,” Deer said.

Tribes will also be able to support the federal prosecutors by working cases that may seem too thin for the often overburdened federal system.

“Not necessarily because they don’t care about Native women but because there’s miscommunication on the ground, which makes it difficult to get evidence,” Deer said. “If the feds don’t feel there is enough evidence, maybe the tribal prosecutor can find some way to make it stick.”

Looking Forward

Deer has been selected as the chairperson of the Office for Victims of Crime Federal Advisory Committee, which was created to help strengthen federal prosecution of sexual violence crimes in Indian Country by improving communication between federal agencies involved in handling these

cases.

According to Deer, the Indian Health Service, Department of Justice and Department of Interior all have separate protocol when handling reports of sexual violence, which can cause errors in the collection and handling of evidence.

“When you don’t have any evidence of a crime it becomes very difficult to prosecute it,” she said. “That is one of the reasons we’ve seen high declination rates of federal prosecutors not taking rape cases.”

This new committee aims to remedy this by developing a universal protocol.

“It will help both tribal and federal prosecutors if we have a better system in responding on the ground to women and children so that when they do report, we have a clear system and chain of command that will improve the system so that they will be more likely to follow through,” Deer said.

In Oklahoma, many sexual violence crimes occurring against tribal members can already be prosecuted in state and local courts since the majority of tribal lands are also within the jurisdiction of state and local governments.

As a victim of sexual assault, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Alicia McLain, was able to press charges against her aggressor as a resident of an Oklahoma tribe.

A VAWA advocate, McLain is pleased that other Native women outside of Oklahoma will have a better chance for justice since the passage of the act.

“Thankfully, since VAWA passed, things will change; that’s what I’m hoping,” she said. “My assailant spent time in prison so imagine how all those women feel when they don’t get their day in court.”

In an interview with Fife on *Mvskoke Radio*, MCN Family Violence Prevention Program Manager Shawn Partridge pointed out a deficiency in the state’s handling of domestic violence cases involving tribes.

“We still have issues with state courts and law enforcement not respecting or enforcing tribal protective orders,” Partridge said. “Federal law requires state law enforcement in any jurisdiction to enforce and uphold those protective orders.”

Giles who partnered with Partridge in raising awareness about VAWA both locally and nationally, feels it is important for tribes to properly implement this partial restoration of sovereignty.

“All eyes are watching now,” Giles said. “There are still those naysayers. There are still those members of Congress that don’t think we should have the right to do this and they’re going to be watching very closely.”

Giles and Partridge were present during the signing of VAWA and plan to continue their advocacy.

“Shawn and I are actually going out to New Mexico in June to continue that work,” Giles said. “We’re already thinking about the next reauthorization and what we need to be looking for then.”

The tribal provisions in VAWA have only partially restored the criminal jurisdiction of Native Americans over non-Natives on tribal lands, which was previously rescinded in the 1978 Supreme Court ruling *Oliphant v. Suquamish*.

“That’s the piece I feel we need to keep looking at,” Giles said. “We need to keep this door open and start knocking on other doors so future legislation will continue to build our strength as a tribal government; this is just the beginning.”

Letter from the editor: Farewell from Editor Landsberry

Rebecca Landsberry  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Es-tonko (how are you), readers? I hope all is well with you and your family. This is my last letter as editor of the *Muscogee Nation News* (MNN) and writing it is certainly bittersweet but I am excited to tell you about what’s on the horizon.

I started my career with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) as an intern in 2005 working in a world-class tribal court system. I’ve been with the tribe full-time since I was hired as senior writer in January 2008 for the Communications Department.

I have honestly loved my job and the opportunities and growth it’s provided, both personally and professionally. I feel lucky to be able to say that and mean it.

The very first event I worked was the inauguration of MCN Principal Chief A.D. Ellis’ second term. I wasn’t paid for being there early on a Saturday morning but as Gary Fife often says, journalists make their vows of poverty when they sign up for this gig.

From that moment on, I have been immersed in the unique culture that comes with being a tribal employee and a journalist. I feel so very fortunate to have had access to the best equipment and training money can buy. I’ve also had the opportunity to cover national stories from a Muscogee (Creek) perspective as well as travel and explore some of the most interesting cities in the U.S., during my time with the MNN.

One of the most memorable stories I followed as a writer was the last years of MCN original allottee Martha Berryhill’s life. From her 108th birthday party at the Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center in 2008, to her being honored as one of the state of Oklahoma’s treasured centenarians at the capitol in Oklahoma City, to her passing at the age of 110 in December 2010; it was the end of an era.

As a woman of few words, Berryhill’s dedication to her faith spoke volumes, as did her tenacity (Creek women stick around for a long time, so be nice – they will probably outlive you).

As the youngest editor in MNN history at 23, I had an idea of what this job entailed but could never have been prepared for the passion I would develop for my craft and for my fellow Muscogee people.

I have accepted a new position as Membership and Communications Manager at the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) and could not be more thrilled. I previously served NAJA as a member of the board of directors on a voluntary basis but will start working full-time April 15 from the national office located in Norman, Okla., where I spent my college days at the University of Oklahoma. My new office will be on the second floor of Copeland Hall and I invite you to stop by if you’re in the neighborhood, or



just need to use the restroom during Sooner football games.

One of the missions NAJA is charged with is advocating for freedom of the press in Indian Country. This can be especially tricky for many in tribal media because often times, writers are constrained by national budgets and those that sign off on them. I believe that words can be our biggest enemy or greatest ally and the approach by which their power is harnessed is crucial to any nation’s success.

Indian Country deserves to understand the good and the sometimes not-so-good, as told by Native voices. As watchdogs of our nations, we are tasked with the tremendous responsibility of holding our governments accountable and preserving transparency, a key component in the maintenance of tribal sovereignty, in my opinion.

It’s really difficult to sum up over five years of work in a single letter but I hope that our readers have taken note of the massive strides Mvskoke Media continues to make. This publication has been my baby. I’ve watched it grow and mature and I’m quick to be defensive of any negative comments made about it.

On the other hand, I’ve learned that nothing can improve without the identification of weaknesses (I guess those SWOT analyses can come in handy sometimes).

Overall, I’m proud to have been part of a team that steadily works to improve themselves as professionals every day. I can gladly leave the MNN knowing I helped create an award-winning publication and served my tribe through the talents the Creator has blessed me with.

Who knew people would actually read what I wrote or listen to me on the radio? I’m delighted they have. This job made me realize the enormous responsibility we have as media practitioners to do our very best to provide balanced coverage, no matter the venue.

Mvskoke Media is now on the hunt for a new editor (and a reporter). The ideal candidate would have experience managing a newsroom including, but not limited to: coverage assignments, copy editing, layout, design and all aspects of advertising from concept to print. These are just a few of the requirements but there’s much more to this job.

I have one piece of advice for the incoming editor: Don’t forget whom you serve . . . the Muscogee (Creek) *people*.



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION					
Financial Report					
For the Period Ending March 31, 2013					
	Receipts	Budgets	Encumbered	Expended	Balance
GENERAL FUND					
ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND	0.00	699,056.00	76,699.64	1,931,612.10	-1,309,255.74 *
HEALTH ADMINISTRATION	2,522,551.62	0.00	0.00	2,522,551.62	-2,522,551.62 *
ANGEL TREE	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,738.73	-1,738.73
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	0.00	1,816,584.22	6,963.41	81,529.94	1,728,090.87
MOTOR FUEL TAXES	576,751.15	0.00	0.00	667,389.40	-667,389.40 *
COMMUNICATIONS REVOLVING	24,702.26	89,948.00	1,404.56	18,166.37	70,377.07
GAMING REVOLVING	534,548.56	528,358.00	58,177.08	181,455.08	288,725.84
CN FESTIVAL	352,292.00	372,064.94	92,734.19	102,585.10	176,745.65
MCN GAMING	62,817,442.01	51,567,847.36	1,230,979.85	31,293,990.99	19,042,876.52
SPECIAL AUDIT CONTROLLER	0.00	227,718.49	0.00	0.00	227,718.49
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	107,392.12	103,491.00	20,955.40	39,379.83	43,155.77
MCN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE	234.16	34,151.15	5,369.94	18,798.07	9,983.14
ECONOMIC DEV COMMITTEE	0.00	495,000.00	0.00	74,017.84	420,982.16
DEBT RETIREMENT FUND	5,828,884.32	0.00	0.00	10,265,479.04	-10,265,479.04
TRIBAL BUDGET	790.44	354,546.00	0.00	102,814.00	251,732.00
MOTOR VEHICLE	1,888,031.29	1,039,347.00	21,054.98	735,400.32	282,891.70
HEALTH EDUCATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,832.71	-28,832.71 *
72 HOUR	3,760,048.84	0.00	0.00	1,354,823.61	-1,354,823.61 *
LIGHTHORSE	3,689.67	8,595.00	0.00	-30.00	8,625.00
LIGHTHORSE FORFEIT/SEIZURE	0.00	11,356.00	0.00	0.00	11,356.00
INSURANCE LOSS FUND	60,041.01	0.00	0.00	45,911.18	-45,911.18
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	78,309,984.64	57,348,063.16	1,514,339.05	49,466,725.93	6,366,998.18
HOUSING AND URBAN DEV					
NAHASDA 11	17,047,677.45	22,739,337.79	3,153,733.77	9,740,457.65	9,845,146.37
STUDENT CENTER LIBRARY	0.00	0.00	800,000.00	0.00	-800,000.00 *
STUDENT AUXILIARY BLDG	0.00	0.00	800,000.00	0.00	-800,000.00 *
RURAL HOUSING & ECO DEV	22,426.89	211,370.89	25,834.02	27,458.42	158,078.45
TOTAL HOUSING AND URBAN DEV	17,070,104.34	22,950,708.68	4,779,567.79	9,767,916.07	8,403,224.82
DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SVC					
TANF	0.00	1,588,842.09	0.00	0.00	1,588,842.09
TANF	68,444.68	1,427,389.38	8,690.12	71,756.29	1,346,942.97
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY 11	73,835.17	74,284.17	0.00	74,405.01	-120.84
CCDBG MANDATORY 11	571,621.86	1,109,602.18	1,025.98	604,166.81	504,409.39
NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE	0.00	5,607.80	0.00	5,607.80	0.00
LIHEAP 12	0.00	138,820.83	0.00	0.00	138,820.83
TANF 12	395,435.15	1,612,185.14	5,385.45	441,149.01	1,165,650.68
FAMILY PRESERVATION 12	170,189.88	414,678.00	15,813.19	193,375.34	205,489.47
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY 12	209,558.55	404,536.08	4,310.00	215,693.69	184,532.39
CCDBG MANDATORY 12	227,300.65	2,067,434.86	18,786.79	248,224.14	1,800,423.93
HEAD START 12	538,606.47	538,606.47	0.00	538,606.47	0.00
TITLE IV B 12	83,124.82	234,371.00	1,571.62	97,507.11	135,292.27
FAMILY VIOLENCE 12	139,546.86	931,093.00	45,245.28	148,949.72	736,898.00
AOA ENP 12	-88,231.42	88,148.58	646.47	66,367.07	21,135.04
AOA NSIP 12	0.00	147,442.00	0.00	121,494.78	25,947.22
LIHEAP 13	161,064.17	309,125.00	895.19	162,208.05	146,021.76
TANF 13	35,713.86	1,137,105.00	3,500.00	37,837.01	1,095,767.99
CHILD SUPPORT 13	648,586.59	951,900.00	62,898.20	732,724.34	156,277.46
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY 13	734,109.35	1,514,760.00	3,201.60	837,203.39	674,355.01
CCDBG MANDATORY 13	249,916.97	2,492,155.00	13,472.87	286,331.31	2,192,350.82

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION					
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	Receipts	Budgets	Encumbered	Expended	Balance
HEAD START 13	606,082.20	1,798,356.00	86,088.03	723,635.99	988,631.98
TANF	104,924.41	104,924.41	0.00	104,924.41	0.00
TANF	104,603.33	1,674,169.13	0.00	132,964.97	1,541,204.16
TOTAL DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SVC	5,106,030.07	20,765,536.12	271,530.79	5,845,132.71	14,648,872.62
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE					
BREAST PEER COUNSELOR 11	13,482.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BREAST PEER COUNSELOR 12	0.00	51,354.00	0.00	1,511.96	49,842.04
FOOD DISTRIBUTION 13	226,304.27	787,988.00	13,278.45	337,074.53	437,635.02
WOMENS INFANTS & CHILDREN 13	1,091,294.68	1,783,962.00	61,675.05	1,210,170.80	512,116.15
TOTAL DEPT OF AGRICULTURE	1,304,974.27	2,623,304.00	74,953.50	1,548,757.29	999,593.21
PROGRAM INCOME					
PROCEEDS OF SALE	58,332.10	2,553,400.13	219,250.25	290,726.92	2,043,422.96
DISTRICT COURT	126,229.90	60,000.00	0.00	6,727.02	53,272.98
NCAI	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	1,753.36	746.64
WIC PROGRAM INCOME	165,917.57	0.00	0.00	165,917.57	-165,917.57
DEA	0.00	5,917.00	0.00	0.00	5,917.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	1,836.37	6,500.00	712.96	4,282.55	1,504.49
HOUSING PROGRAM INCOME	913,295.75	987,290.22	144,500.00	794,175.26	48,614.96
HA EMERGENCY REHAB	107,449.39	893,806.42	0.00	14,589.65	879,216.77
MCN CHILD DEVELOP. CENTER	336,265.33	1,632,430.00	7,165.40	24,692.81	1,600,571.79
TRANSIT	15,442.12	26,161.00	0.00	1,445.52	24,715.48
EUF DORM USDA REIMBURSEMENT	13,478.86	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
CHILD CARE USDA REIMBURSE	16,656.60	43,238.00	13,639.77	23,580.58	6,017.65
HEAD START USDA REIMBURSEMENT	61,715.99	240,778.00	43,504.66	54,958.96	142,314.38
EUFULA DORM ACTIVITY FUND	2,530.08	89,000.00	20,389.09	29,235.71	39,375.20
ELECTION BOARD	16.11	1,647.00	0.00	0.00	1,647.00
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	4,979.72	35,000.00	6,783.19	15,658.37	12,558.44
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	2,189.92	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
INDIAN ROADS (IRR)	58,667.32	850,000.00	66,959.26	184,577.07	598,463.67
SELF GOVERNANCE	1,921.04	346,718.00	9,975.64	293,472.16	43,270.20
TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME	2,079,988.31	7,799,385.77	532,880.22	1,905,793.51	5,360,712.04
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION					
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC	0.00	1,201.37	0.00	0.00	1,201.37
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	-7,000.00
GREEN INITIATIVE	-11,288.09	0.00	29,526.87	116,327.31	-145,854.18
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	-11,288.09	1,201.37	29,526.87	123,327.31	-151,652.81
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR					
JOM 10	0.00	15,685.90	0.00	12,946.75	2,739.15
PL 477	0.00	536,625.76	5,060.16	251,185.94	280,379.66
EUFULA DORM	0.00	83,636.20	11,144.30	30,492.43	41,999.47
JOM EARLY CHILD 11	0.00	1,291.23	0.00	0.00	1,291.23
JOM 11	0.00	273,381.10	7,325.00	253,296.85	12,759.25
EUFULA DORM	0.00	580,881.49	38,667.77	243,130.30	299,083.42
JOM EARLY CHILD HOOD	0.00	3,351.62	0.00	3,286.85	64.77
JOM 12	0.00	763,839.00	0.00	28,314.62	735,524.38
EUFULA DORM 12	247,901.00	1,347,758.92	3,500.00	362,534.91	981,724.01
SELF GOVERNANCE	1,908,516.00	33,577,760.46	4,896,648.85	4,163,704.14	24,517,407.47
ARBEKA ROAD	109,417.36	109,417.36	0.00	0.00	109,417.36

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION					
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	Receipts	Budgets	Encumbered	Expended	Balance
JOM 06	0.00	1,411.85	0.00	0.00	1,411.85
EUFULA DORM 06	0.00	223,716.86	0.00	0.00	223,716.86
EUFULA DORM 08	0.00	129,667.78	0.00	0.00	129,667.78
EUFULA DORM 09	0.00	254,405.71	5,233.74	21,645.46	227,526.51
KELLYVILLE PROJECT	415,181.51	406,762.49	0.00	0.00	406,762.49
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR	2,681,015.87	38,309,593.73	4,967,579.82	5,370,538.25	27,971,475.66
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION					
DOT TRANSIT PROGRAM	20,181.63	20,181.63	0.00	20,181.63	0.00
DOT TRANSIT PROGRAM	186,120.87	227,169.87	0.00	227,169.87	0.00
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	206,302.50	247,351.50	0.00	247,351.50	0.00
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
RURAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	102,860.18	340,408.44	19,854.10	139,091.90	181,462.44
METHAMPHETAMINE INITIATIVE	15,756.99	15,756.99	0.00	15,756.99	0.00
TRIBAL RESOURCES PROGRAM	118.48	150,522.96	29,148.05	4,351.95	117,022.96
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	91,230.82	528,674.13	27,278.09	114,059.80	387,336.24
PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP	46,903.65	158,485.05	1,610.49	54,487.76	102,386.80
CTAS	50,450.60	68,485.69	1,268.83	54,542.43	12,674.43
EXCHANGE NETWORK	20,066.60	126,724.10	1,442.00	22,950.36	102,331.74
SECOND CHANCE ACT	48,315.50	388,362.45	8,488.98	65,933.97	313,939.50
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	375,702.82	1,777,419.81	89,090.54	471,175.16	1,217,154.11
CAPITAL PROJECT					
STUDENT CENTER LIBRARY	0.00	0.00	1,811,328.14	136,723.86	-1,948,052.00
STUDENT AUXILIARY BLDG	2,000,000.00	0.00	1,811,328.14	136,723.86	-1,948,052.00
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT	2,000,000.00	0.00	3,622,656.28	273,447.72	-3,896,104.00
ENTERPRISE FUND					
37 ACT	866,672.70	0.00	0.00	931,882.59	-931,882.59 *
FOUNTAINHEAD CREEK GOLF	1,098,675.05	975,730.00	57,129.01	404,279.88	514,321.11
RIVERWALK CROSSING	0.00	3,192,398.56	0.00	428,827.53	2,763,571.03
MUSKOGEE OFFICE BLDG	249,467.42	394,727.00	137,902.59	72,622.60	184,201.81
ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	467.69	-467.69
IHS OFFICE BUILDING	20,021.60	18,739.00	0.00	1,387.10	17,351.90
TRIBAL AGRICULTURE	421,141.36	282,617.00	16,137.10	119,428.17	147,051.73
HANNA INDIAN COMMUNITY	197,418.00	170,496.00	21,179.46	66,202.00	83,114.54
TOURISM & RECREATION	1,168,296.00	1,084,658.00	17,663.33	548,842.01	518,152.66
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	1,432.84	300,000.00	196,114.84	73,398.11	30,487.05
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND	4,023,124.97	6,419,365.56	446,126.33	2,647,337.68	3,325,901.55
INTERNAL SERVICE FUND					
ROADS FORCE ACCOUNT	0.00	1,447,982.00	142,274.12	380,220.18	925,487.70
NAHASDA FORCE ACCOUNT	560,847.58	1,591,043.00	137,895.03	675,672.44	777,475.53
NAHASDA MAINTENANCE	39,015.38	153,585.00	1,807.02	44,550.13	107,227.85
TRIBAL REAL PROP & FACILITY	2,632,139.05	2,636,983.00	50,229.60	1,051,827.89	1,534,925.51
FLEET MANAGEMENT	954,816.98	654,626.25	67,362.92	248,602.89	338,660.44
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	0.00	359,851.33	126,467.63	2,546,075.01	-2,312,69



# GIC board members keep traditions alive

Knowledgeable citizens help others grow culturally

**Sterling Cosper**  
*MNN Reporter*

GLENPOOL, Okla. — As a retired substance abuse counselor, Muscogee (Creek) citizen George Coser has seen the impact of cultural identity loss.

“I worked on a reservation in Idaho and while I was there, nine young people killed themselves. I started talking to some older gentlemen and it didn’t take a Ph. D., for them to say, ‘they don’t like themselves,’” he said.

Despite his retirement, Coser is combating this identity loss in his own community by teaching stompdance classes on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., at the Glenpool Indian Community (GIC) Activity Center in Glenpool, Okla.

“I saw a poster one time that said, ‘dance and the good times will come.’ I asked the guy it belonged to what it meant and he said, ‘when you dance and sing, you feel good about who you are,’” he said.

Coser believes that staying active is part of traditional culture and pointed out the positive impacts of this lifestyle.

“Our people have stayed active for all these years. I can remember growing up with my grandmother. She stayed active all the time and I attribute her long life to her activities,” he said.

His classes and adherence to tradition have helped his put this into practice in his own life.

“I’m glad I came from that background. When I was active I didn’t have any problems,” Coser said.

He believes that his students also benefit in a similar capacity.

“It keeps our young people busy. When they get out here they dance and enjoy themselves,” Coser said.

Coser feels dance is particularly important in Native culture.

“Every Indian tribe has a dance and I guess that is just the way you connect with your spiritual side,” he said.

A member of Arbeka Ceremonial Grounds, Coser is a stompdance leader and has been dancing at ceremonial grounds all his life. His aim is to help teach those who do not share this background.

“What we do here is give individualized treatment. You can go to the grounds but you won’t get individual attention,” Coser said.

Men in traditional stompdances sing while women keep time by shaking turtle shells tied around



MNN/Sterling Cosper  
George Coser (right) gives stompdance instruction to attendees of a cultural class April 3 at the Glenpool Activity Center.

their legs.

“I always equate it to the rhythm. The drummer is the most important person in a band. Without our shellshakers, we don’t have a stompdance,” Coser said.

He encourages his male students to learn at least four songs before they start at the grounds.

“With the songs we sing, you have to know your verses,” Coser said.

Some of Coser’s students are already members of a ceremonial ground.

John Skeeter, an occasional attendee of Coser’s classes, is a member of Duck Creek, a Euchee ceremonial ground.

“I didn’t start singing until I was about 30,” Skeeter said.

Skeeter often brings his wife to Coser’s classes.

“She’s Catholic. We’ve been married for 14 years and together for about 20. We say we’ve converted her. People like her came in and didn’t know anything,” Skeeter said.

Bobby Bigby, a citizen of Cherokee Nation, heard about Coser’s classes though a friend she met in high school.

“We were involved with the American Indian student group there,” she said.

Part Native and Asian American, Bigby has been living and studying abroad until recently.

“I have been in Asia and going to school at Washington University in St. Louis but I’m back in Oklahoma and wanting to reconnect with this part of my heritage,” she said.

Coser is co-chairman of the GIC board and teaches his class alongside the community’s sergeant-at-arms Monte Randall.

Randall, who is also dean of student affairs at the College of the Muscogee Nation, volunteers his time to teach youth language classes at the activity center.

“My stepdaughter is in the Glenpool Elementary School and was participating in the challenge bowl and that’s where we really started it,” Randall said.

He based the early part of his curriculum off of the study guides for this educational event hosted by the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN).

“We just started working on the language from that point,” he said.

After the challenge bowl, Randall started training his class for the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, April 1-2 at the University of Oklahoma.

“Whenever we did the skit for the language fair they already knew half the words,” Randall said.

Randall’s students placed at both events and now he hopes to shift his focus toward training them for the Junior Olympics, June 21 at the Mvskoke Nation Festival.

“Whenever we start training with the Junior Olympics I will keep on with the language,” he said.

GIC Community Chairperson Dianna Billie is pleased with her fellow board member’s efforts.

“They don’t get paid to do this or anything so I’m really proud of them,” Billie said.

Randall and Coser started the classes in September 2012 and Billie hopes GIC will be able to financially contribute to their efforts in the near future.

“Hopefully we are going to do some renovating and we’re going to try to put a little bit of money in that class,” Billie said. “We are going to have to get that approved by the community but that is just my vision as a chairperson.”

Coser hopes other MCN communities will start similar classes.

“What I kind of wish is that other people would hear about it and do it in their communities,” Coser said.

In the meantime, Coser’s classes are open to anyone who wants to attend.

“It’s not just open to the Glenpool community; it’s open to everybody,” he said.

He believes traditional culture is not only good for those who practice it but that the practice itself is imperative in keeping Native culture alive.

“If we don’t pass it along it will die,” Coser said.

For more information about these classes contact Coser at: 918-576-1736.

# On-The-Hill designs 2013 MCN Pendleton blanket

Keepsake blanket "Perpetual Blessing" inspired by the Wind Clan

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

OKMULGEE, Okla.— Pendleton blankets are known throughout Native American culture. They are used at tournaments, gift exchanges and to honor individuals for successes. When one is given it is considered a great honor and achievement.

Brian On-The-Hill, 34, works as a Project Specialist for [Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN)] Tourism & Recreation Department. At the beginning of his term in 2012, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger asked On-The-Hill to design a Pendleton blanket for the tribe.

“Chief Tiger approached me with the idea because he wanted something to do with the Wind Clan,” On-The-Hill said. “He is of the Wind Clan and wanted something made specifically for his administration. I thought about it for a long time on what I can do to represent the Wind Clan and get that design on the blanket.”

The design on the blanket is “Perpetual Blessing” or “Estofis pum merret os in the Mvskoke language.

“I wanted something done that was distinct to our tribe and our culture,” On-The-Hill said. “So I went back to our Mississippian ancestors and looked at designs that were found on pottery and things of that nature.”

On-The-Hill talked about how he felt when he was approached to design the Pendleton blanket.

“When I was asked to make a design for the Pendleton, I was real intimidated,” On-The-Hill said. “It kind of scared me. I had to take time and think about what I really wanted to do. Plus it helped when Chief told me what he would like for the design. So I had to put all my ideas on

a blank sheet of paper and brainstorm on what I wanted.”

On-The-Hill goes into detail with the design and explains what helped him to be able to create it.

“The designs that I have on there is basically showing creation,” On-The-Hill said. “Creation came from nothing and when our ancestors emerged, there was a fog. They could not see anything in that fog. Hesaketvmese (Master of Breath) had the wind from the east blow the fog away and the people were able to see creation for the first time. From that point on they were able to see creation and their responsibility for being a part of that creation.”

On-The-Hill added, “This took me about two weeks before I was satisfied and I had redone the design at least four times.”

On-The-Hill also designs print materials for the Creek Festival every year, and creates logos for different departments throughout the MCN.

MCN Tourism and Recreation (T&R) Manager William Lowe spoke about On-The-Hill’s vision and abilities as a designer.

“Brian being given the opportunity to put his cultural designs on a Pendleton blanket is a great thing,” Lowe said. “Our department (T&R) likes to do things above status quo. With Brian making this design and representing our department shows the work that we do for Creek Nation.”

On-The-Hill added that patience is also part of the design process.

“We were done with our design for the blanket by February,” On-The-Hill said. “The blankets finally came in right before Christmas.”

For more information on the Perpetual Blessing Pendleton blanket, please contact On-The-Hill at Tourism & Recreation at 918-732-7993.

On-The-Hill is of the Ecovlke (Deer Clan). His tribal town is Kvnicate. He is the son of Levi and Debbie On-The-Hill.



MNN/Daniel Roberts  
Brian On-The-Hill (right) and co-worker Ryan Logan hold the "Perpetual Blessing" Pendleton Blanket. On-The-Hill designed the blanket specifically for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



# SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

Every Thursday from 10am - 2pm.

**Starting at 10am seniors actively playing with their White Buffalo Card in a machine will be eligible for one of 3 drawings held every half hour from 10am-2pm for up to \$50 credits on their player’s card. Players will also get a \$10 match play on the White Buffalo Club Card and a ticket for a complimentary lunch at the Casino Grill.**



**DUCK CREEK**

This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee Creek Nation Office of Public Gaming.



# The Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

# “Doing Business in Indian Country”

## 11th annual Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**Moderators:**

**Hon. Gregory H. Bigler, BS, JD, LL.M, Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge**  
**Jasen Chadwick, JD – Staff Attorney - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court**

**Faculty Members:**

**Stacy Leeds, JD – Dean, University of Arkansas College of Law**  
**Judith V. Royster, JD – Professor of Law, University of Tulsa College of Law**  
**G.W. Rice, JD – Professor of Law, University of Tulsa College of Law**  
**Steve Hager, JD – Director of Litigation - Oklahoma Indian Legal Services**  
**Hon. Philip D. Lujan, JD – Chief District Judge, Citizen Potawatomi Nation**  
**Sarah Deer, JD – Professor of Law, William Mitchell College of Law**  
**Gavin Clarkson, PHD – Professor, New Mexico State University College of Business**  
**Dawn Bigler – Menominee Tribal Citizen and Traditionalist**  
**Josephine Bigler – Euchee Citizen and Traditionalist**  
**Robert Yargee – Mekko, Alabama Quassarte Ceremonial Grounds and Traditionalist**  
**Chrissy Nimmo, JD – Assistant Attorney General, Cherokee Nation**  
**Jeff Davis, JD – Executive Director - Indian Law and Order Commission**  
**Travis Pickens, JD – Oklahoma Bar Association Ethics Counsel**

Conference Fee: \$225.00  
Daily Rate – \$150 / Day  
12 Hours of CLE Credit  
Including one hour of ethics



May 9-10, 2013  
River Spirit Event Center  
8330 Riverside Pkwy.  
Tulsa, Okla.

**Day One - May 9, 2013**

**8:00**      **Registration and Breakfast**

**8:40**      **Opening Ceremony**

**8:45**      **Welcome and Introduction – Gregory H. Bigler**

**9:00**      **The Present and Future of Tribal Jurisdiction – Gregory H. Bigler**

**09:50**     **Break**

**10:00**     **ICWA: A Traditional Perspective and Legal Analysis – Dawn & Josephine Bigler/ Steve Hager**

**11:00**     **Baby Veronica: From Family Court to the Supreme Court - Chrissy Nimmo**

**11:50**     **Lunch – Visions Buffet**

**1:10**      **Traditional Law and Culture: A Mekko’s Perspective - Robert Yargee/Gregory H. Bigler**

**2:00**      **Break**

**2:10**      **National Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform - Stacy Leeds**

**3:10**      **Now that TLOA and VAWA Reauthorization have Passed, How is Indian Country Changing? - Jeff Davis**

**4:00**      **Question & Answer Session and Evaluations of Day 1 – All Faculty and Speakers**

**Day Two - May 10, 2012**

**7:45**      **Registration and Breakfast**

**8:15**      **Opening Remarks – Gregory H. Bigler**

**8:30**      **HEARTH Act: Restoring the Ability of Tribes to Control the Leasing of Tribal Lands – Judith Royster**

**9:30**      **Legal Issues in Tribal Finance and Economic Development– Gavin Clarkson**

**10:20**     **Break**

**10:30**     **Intercultural Communication Implications of Contemporary Tribal Courts - Phil Lujan**

**11:20**     **Lunch Break**

**12:50**     **Trending Now: Ethics and Professional Responsibilities in a Nut Shell – Travis A. Pickens**

**1:40**      **Break**

**1:50**      **Violence Against Women Act: 2013 Reauthorization – Sarah Deer**

**2:50**      **A Professorial Look at Tribal Jurisdiction – G. William Rice**

REGISTRATION FORM

DOING BUSINESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY 2013

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Firm/Organization\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

OBA Member \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No      OBA Bar # \_\_\_\_\_      E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Muscogee (Creek) District Court - CLE Program and mail form to:

Muscogee (Creek) District Court  
P.O. Box 652  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

For more information, contact Chris Azbell at 918-758-1400 or via email  
at: [cazbell@mcndistrictcourt.com](mailto:cazbell@mcndistrictcourt.com)  
Visit us at [www.muscogeecreektribalcourt.org](http://www.muscogeecreektribalcourt.org)

Group hotel rates are available at Marriot Hotel Tulsa Southern Hills with market code: CLEC, PMS: 10302.  
For more information, call 918-493-7000.



# 5TH ANNUAL SEXUAL ASSAULT WALK

**APRIL 30, 2013**

**APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

**Where: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building**

**Registration: 12 - 1 p.m.**

**Presentation: 1 - 1:30 p.m. (Followed by the 5th annual Sexual Assault Walk)**

**Featuring Guest Speaker: Sarah Deer**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Sarah Deer is the chair of the Office for Victims of Crime’s federal advisory committee designed to develop protocol for responding to sexual assault in tribal communities. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder selected Deer as chair because of her activism on behalf of Native Americans and her experience address sexual violence issues in tribal communities

Participants who attend the program will receive a T-shirt, bag and mug.

Donations are accepted. Needed items include: hygiene products, new flip-flops or slippers, new apparel or new undergarments. All items will be donated to Sexual Assault Nurse Examination Programs within the MCN jurisdictional boundaries

**Preventing Sexual Assault is everyone’s responsibility!**

For more information, contact Tina Qualls or Denise McCrary at 918-732-7869.



**PREVENTING SEXUAL  
ASSAULT IS EVERYONE’S  
RESPONSIBILITY!**





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR APRIL 2013

## CMN JOB FAIR SET FOR APRIL 17

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) in cooperation with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Human Resources Department is hosting the second annual Job Fair in the Education/Administration building on the CMN campus April 17 from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Current CMN students, alumni and 2013 CMN graduates will be attending as potential employees. This is a great opportunity for MCN managers and supervisors to screen potential applicants.

MCN Human Resources representatives will have current job opening descriptions and be available to accept applications on-site.

For more information, contact CMN Dean of Student Affairs Monte Randall at 918-549-2800.

## CITY SEEKS YOUTH FOR TULSA GROUP MEETING APRIL 19

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community youth group or Creek Indian Tulsa Youth (CITY) currently has eight active members, elected officers and is looking for youth who reside in the Tulsa community boundaries. The next meeting will be April 19 at 6:30 p.m., at TCIC.

Those living in the Tulsa District who do not reside in any oth-

er community boundaries are also invited to learn culture, language and attend social activities with other Muscogee (Creek) youth.

For more information, contact the Tulsa Creek Indian Community office at 918-298-2464 or by email at: tulsacreekcommunity@yahoo.com.

## RESTORING HARMONY POWWOW SET FOR APRIL 20

TULSA, Okla. — The 2013 Restoring Harmony Powwow will be April 20 at the

Westside YMCA, located at 5400 S. Olympia Ave., in Tulsa.

For more information, contact Tim Shadlow at 918-382-2217 or Amy DeMoss 918-382-2210.

## VICTORY CHRISTIAN HOSTS NATIVE CELEBRATION APRIL 20

TULSA, Okla. — The Victory Native American Ministry, an outreach of Victory Christian Center, will host the second annual Native American Tribal Celebration 2013 on April 20 from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., at Victory Christian Center located at 7700 South Lewis Ave., in Tulsa

The event will feature Jonathan Maracle and Broken Walls and offers an opportunity for all people to connect and experience the Native culture through song, dance, food, and inspirational Native speakers from around the country.

The event is free and open to

the public.

For more information, contact Martha Schmitt at 918-645-4482.

## LADY WARRIORS LOOK FOR JIM THORPE SOFTBALL TEAMMATES

TULSA, Okla. – The Lady Warriors of Tulsa are looking for softball players 12 and under for their team that will play at the Jim Thorpe Games June 9-15 in Oklahoma City.

All positions for the softball team are open. Although there will be no tryouts, players who are interested should have at least one year of competitive experience.

No practices are scheduled at this time but they will be held in the Tulsa area. The deadline to sign up is April 26.

For more information on the Lady Warriors softball team, please contact Brad Alberty at 918-852-2843 or alberty.brad@gmail.com.

## AARP NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR INDIAN ELDER HONORS

OKLAHOMA CITY — Recognizing the important impact Indian elders have on the fabric of the state, AARP Oklahoma will once celebrate Indian elders at its fifth annual Indian Elder Honors.

AARP is now accepting nominations for Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors through June 1.

Nominations can be made online at: [www.aarp.org/ok](http://www.aarp.org/ok) or by mail.

## BENEFIT FUND RAISER FOR JESSICA POWELL MAY 4

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A benefit fund raiser for Jessica Powell is set for May 4 at the Holdenville Indian Community Center located at 224 E. Poplar.

Funds collected will go towards cancer treatment expenses.

Breakfast will be served from 8-10 a.m., and will be \$8 per plate. Plates include bacon, sausage, eggs, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, and orange juice or coffee.

Lunch will begin at 11 a.m. Indian tacos will be \$7. Hamburgers, stew and chili will also be available.

Grocery bingo will begin at 1 p.m., and is \$10 for 20 games.

For more information, contact Anna Givens at 405-651-9454 or Alexa Grass at 405-584-0446.

## SMITH FAMILY RE-UNION SET FOR MAY 25

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Smith Family Reunion will be held May 25 beginning at 10 a.m.

The gathering will be held at Billy Ray Smith's home.

Please bring a covered dish for the potluck meal. There will be door prizes, a cakewalk, old family pictures and more.

All are invited for a fun-filled day and to reunite with our families. For more information, call 918-656-3521.

## Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation applications due April 30



Media Release  
Staff Reports

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The deadline for the Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant applications is April 30 at 5 p.m.

The winner of the pageant will receive a scholarship and will represent the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for one year at various events, both in the tribe and outside the tribe.

This year's crowns for both Miss and Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation are beaded, and were made by Shema Lincoln, who is also a Creek citizen.

Some of the applicant requirements are: must be one-fourth degree or more of Creek blood, must reside in the state of Oklahoma and must have access to traditional regalia.

The pageant is set for June 1 at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla., at 6 p.m. The pageant is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Pageant Coordinator Rita Williams at [rwilliams@mvs-kokefood.org](mailto:rwilliams@mvs-kokefood.org) or 918-759-1891 or Vice-Chair Justin Giles at [jg-iles@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:jg-iles@mcn-nsn.gov) or 703-501-0949.

Applications are also available at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov).

## Tune in to Mvskoke Radio, on KOKL AM1240 in April

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Join co-hosts Gary Fife and Rebecca Landsberry on April 10, when Muscogee (Creek) World War II veteran Philip Coon remembers the Bataan Death March. Coon's son, Mike, will visit the place his father was captured and forced to endure the march to Japanese prison camps.

Mvskoke Media journalist Gerald Wofford will accompany Coon on this journey and discuss the event live from the Philippines.

Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council Sam Alexander will be a guest on the hour-long call-in program on Mvskoke Radio April 17. Alexander will speak about recent developments in legislation and council business.

To ask a question or share a comment, call 918-756-3646 and tune in to Mvskoke Radio for the latest in tribal and community news Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL AM1240 in Okmulgee.

### Muscogee (Creek) Nation WIC Program Site Schedule

<b>Okmulgee</b> 918-758-2722 or 1-800-648-2302	<b>Wetumka</b> 405-452-1317
<b>Weekdays</b> 8:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m. <b>Creek Capitol Complex</b> Hwy 75 & Loop 56/ P.O. Box 2158 Okmulgee, OK 74447	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Friday</b> 9:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. <b>Creek Nation Wetumka Offices</b> 333 S. Washita Wetumka, OK 74883
<b>Broken Arrow</b> 918-698-2309	<b>Coweta</b> 918-279-3271
<b>Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs.</b> 9:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. <b>Broken Arrow Neighbors</b> 322 West Broadway Broken Arrow, OK 74012	<b>Weekdays</b> 8:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m.~ 1:00 p.m. <b>Koweta Indian Health Clinic</b> 31870 East Hwy 51 Coweta, OK 74429
<b>Eufaula</b> 918-618-4577	<b>Glenpool</b> 918-698-2309
<b>Tuesday</b> 9:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. <b>McIntosh County Youth &amp; Family Center</b> 107 McKinley Avenue Eufaula, OK 74432	<b>Thursday</b> 9:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. <b>NACT Headstart</b> 14100 S. Hickory Glenpool, OK 74033
<b>Okemah</b> 918-623-2009	<b>Sapulpa</b> 918-224-3068
<b>Monday &amp; Thursday</b> 8:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. <b>Across from Creek Nation Hospital</b> 302 North 14th Okemah, OK 74859	<b>Weekdays</b> 9:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. <b>Sapulpa Indian Health Clinic</b> 1125 East Cleveland Sapulpa, OK 74066
<b>Seminole</b> 405-382-3900	<b>Shawnee</b> 405-395-9666
<b>Friday</b> 9:30 a.m. ~ 3:30 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. <b>Food Distribution Building</b> Mekusukey Mission 12577 NS 354 Seminole, OK 74868	<b>Monday and Wednesday</b> 9:30 a.m. ~ 3:30 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. <b>722B E. Independence</b> Shawnee, OK 74801
<b>Stroud</b> 918-968-3030	<b>Tulsa</b> 918-298-4874
<b>1st &amp; 3rd Wednesday</b> 9:30 a.m. ~ 3:30 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. <b>USDA Building</b> 920883 S. Hwy. 99 Stroud, OK 74079	<b>Tuesday</b> 9:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. <b>Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center</b> 8611 S. Union Tulsa, OK 74132

All clinics are closed the last day of the month for staff training. Standards for participation are the same for everyone regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin or handicap.

Revised Feb. 2013





# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## Entertainment announced for 2013 Mvskoke Festival

MAY 1, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 9  
"KEHVSE"  
MULBERRY MONTH



Information provided for scheduled entertainment, events and more

Sterling Cosper / MNN Reporter

JENKS, Okla. — Details about the 2013 Mvskoke Nation Festival June 20-23 were provided during a press conference April 16 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) owned Riverwalk in Jenks, Okla.

The majority of this year's festival, themed 'We Are Mvskoke,' will be held at the MCN Claude A. Omnplex and the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

"We wanted to find a theme that describes us as Muscogee people. It allows us to tell people how proud we are of our Muscogee heritage," said MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

According to Tiger, the entertainment lineup for the festival includes: country musician Aaron Lewis, also the front-man for the band Staind, who will perform



MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe provides details about the Mvskoke Nation Festival June 20-23 during a press conference April 16 at the MCN-owned Riverwalk plaza in Jenks, Okla.

June 21 and R&B artist Natalie Cole who will open for Smokey Robinson June 22.

Tiger announced that R.J. and Jay Paul Molinere of the History Channel's show 'Swamp People' will be part of the festival parade June 22 in downtown Okmulgee, Okla.

Other events include:

2013 MCN Miss and Jr. Miss Muscogee Scholarship Pageant

Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

Stompdance featuring a community feed

Arts, crafts and food vendors

Traditional games including a traditional skills demonstration and cornstalk bow shoot

Men's and Women's Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

Children's activities including the Fun Fair and MCN Junior Olympics

SEE FESTIVAL - 2

## Mvskoke Radio speaks with National Council Speaker

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla.—Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Sam Alexander was the guest for an hour-long call in show Apr. 17 on Mvskoke Radio. It was a discussion of some top current affairs and a bit of look into the internal workings of the Council.

"I thought about being here a year ago. I was optimistic then and I still am. The principal chief (George Tiger) and I see one another regularly. He's got a very good cabinet and he has turned things over to them. He's promoting the Muscogee Nation across the nation like it's never been done before. I think things are going very, very well."

"We have a relatively new Council; they're catching on very well. I think we've had a very good year and a lot of things have occurred."

Dome

Q. Starting out on the local level, the annual Creek Festival is two months away. A special part of that is the Omnplex Dome has been closed. Do we have any update on the repairs and when we might see that reopen?

A. We had an unofficial bit of information at the Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Committee. Without getting into a bunch of details, we don't expect it to be open in time for the Festival.

Q. What actions might the tribe be taking includes talking to a special prosecutor about the Dome. Where are we in regards to that legalistic proceeding?

A. I asked the National Council if that is what they wanted to do.

SEE SPEAKER - 3

## MCN Recycling Center opens on Earth Day

Tribal recycling center opens for business

Gary Fife / MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla.—The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) kicked off its celebration of Earth Day, April 22 with the grand opening of its recycling warehouse and by holding an electronics recycling event.

Del Beaver, Manager of MCN Environmental Services talked about the Earth Day connection.

"What better way to celebrate the earth than to have a grand opening of our recycling warehouse? People all over the nation, all over the earth are cel-



MNN/Gary Fife

A baler crushes cardboard into bales at Muscogee (Creek) Nation Recycling Center

brating Earth Day. This is just our part of celebrating, help recycle, reduce the need of the earth. We're just trying to do our part."

According to Beaver, Native American people have a natural responsibility to care for the earth.

"Native Americans are viewed as the stewards of the earth. We should really be the driving force behind recycling, 'green technology' and sustainable development. In this area, the Creek Nation is the biggest entity and so

that's kind of the driving force of having our own recycling center."

He said the project started several years ago. A U.S. Department of Energy grant provided start-up funds for the project he said was 'good for everybody.'

"It's good for the earth and it's good for the economy. We started throwing out some ideas, getting some designs and a couple of years later; we've got a recycling center."

Beaver credits a number of MCN departments for coming together on the center.

"It was the grants program, department of energy, construction services, housing, support from the administration; everybody supported this project.

SEE RECYCLE - 2





MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS STAFF

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CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
GARY FIFE

REPORTER  
STERLING COSPER

SPORTS WRITER  
DARREN DELAUNE

FEATURE WRITER  
GERALD WOFFORD

CIRCULATION  
WILMA LEWIS

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RECYCLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It just goes to show what everybody can do when everybody is on board for the project.”

The MCN Recycling Center will accept cardboard, newspaper, office paper, other types of paper, envelopes and ‘chip board’—cereal box type of cardboard.

The center will accept plastics types one and two. Those numbers are located on the bottom of plastic bottles and containers. It will also take aluminum cans.

The center will not accept hazardous materials such as paints, old car batteries or electronics. Beaver noted that for the Earth Day observance, they would be accepting electronics. He added, they would make special days each quarter for electronics recycling.

The recycling center building was put together with a plan to be as ‘green’ as possible.

Senior citizen activities, which include a free lunch, quilt show and horseshoe tournament

All-Indian Rodeo

Fountainhead Golf Tournament

5K Walk/Run

Youth 3 On 3 Basketball Tournament

Horseshoe tournament

Volleyball tournament

Muscogee hymn and gospel singing

All events are free and open to the public.

“Regardless of who they are, to come and enjoy themselves,” Tiger said. “We want to form partnerships and it all begins with the ability to enjoy the festival.”

Tiger said he believes the festival continues to improve.

“Each year we build momentum. Last year was a record year and we feel we will have even more people this year,” he said.

Arrangements have been made to accommodate attendees.

“We ran out of parking last year,” Tiger said. “The city of Okmulgee is working with us on a piece of property to the south by the Holiday Inn Express to provide a bigger area to park.”

The Nation is also working with other tribes to make these accommodations.

“Law enforcement agencies from other tribes are coming to provide security and we return the favor at their annual festivals,” Tiger said.

MCN Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe credited volunteers for their help with the festival.

“A majority of the people you see running these events are actual employees that have stepped up to the plate, put service above self and given up their weekends to volunteer for this event,” Lowe said.

For more information and the full schedule of events contact Tourism and Recreation:

By phone at: 918-732-7992

By email at: tourism@mcn-nsn.gov

Or visit the festival website: www.creekfestival.com.

FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mvskoke language forum held during symposium



MNN/Sterling Cosper

College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) student Colt Wood opens with a prayer during a Mvskoke language forum held by the CMN April 11, as part of the 41st annual Symposium on the American Indian at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla.

CMN students demonstrate Mvskoke Language at NSU

Sterling Cosper  
MNN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. —

“H o p u e t a k e n o h t o f k v t e s (the goose spit on the children).”

College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) student Danny Beaver made a humorous anecdote in Mvskoke during a Mvskoke language forum held by the CMN April 11 as part of the 41st annual Symposium on the American Indian at Northeastern State University (NSU) April 8-13 in Tahlequah, Okla.

“It’s funny but a lot of our stories involve animals,” Beaver said.

The forum opened with a prayer in Mvskoke lead by CMN student Colt Wood and closed with a Mvskoke hymn sung by a group of CMN students.

Presentations featured speakers with varying degrees of proficiency in the Mvskoke language and one demonstration included 2012-2103 Miss Indian Oklahoma Britany Morgan Hill who is Muscogee (Creek) and Yankton Sioux.

CMN instructors Norma Marshall and Nelson Harjo coordinated with CMN students and NSU staff to prepare the presentation.

“It is an opportunity to share with people that our language is still here and even though it might

not be as common with our people as it use to be we are still make that effort to teach,” Harjo said.

Phyllis Fife, Director of the Center for Tribal Studies at NSU explained how the forum came about.

“About five years ago one of the faculty members at NSU, Harry Oosahwee who is Cherokee, wanted to start a Cherokee language forum that was presented entirely in the Cherokee language so our audience could hear what the language sounds like in conversation,” Fife said. “This year he was not going to present the forum and we decided it was a good time to bring in another language, the Muscogee (Creek) language.”

This was the first year for the Mvskoke forum.

“We have a community of Creek people here in Tahlequah, not only at the university but out in the community as well and at Sequoyah, so we’re very excited to bring the Creek language into our program,” Fife said.

Harjo was excited to showcase his students’ progression.

“You can see how they struggle at the beginning and then see how they have matured,” he said.

CMN student Hannah Murphy was also happy demonstrate this progression.

“I was excited; because when I started, I knew ‘Mvto’ and that was it,” Murphy said. “I’ve learned a lot.”

Harjo hopes to host a similar event at the CMN

to allow the public to experience Mvskoke culture and the Mvskoke people to learn about other Native cultures.

“A lot of our people don’t get to travel and hear other languages so I’d love to be able to bring something like that here,” Harjo said. “A lot of people see us out and hear us speaking English but if they hear us speak our language they get a sense of why we are who we are.”

Harjo believes these demonstrations help convey this sense of identity.

“How are people to know about us? The only way is to go out and show people who we are,” he said.

He explained the uniqueness of cultural traits within Mvskoke language.

“With all Native languages as well as ours, when people are speaking our language they show their true beauty,” Harjo said. “Our language is a beautiful language; it’s an honest language. Our words are very forward and we are very open and honest in how we speak.”

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sara Barnett, who is also a grant writer at NSU, was pleased to hear the Mvskoke language in Tahlequah, Okla.

“Usually, this is a day set aside for the Cherokee language forum so as a Creek citizen it’s especially special to me that today we honored our language at my home campus here at NSU,” Barnett said.

Graduate edition deadline set for Friday, May 17

Sterling Cosper  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee Nation News will be featuring 2013 Muscogee (Creek) Nation graduates in an upcoming summer edition.

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground, church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 word limit).

A recent digital photo should also be included with graduate’s information, which must be submitted via email no later than Friday, May 17.

Submissions should be sent to g5ife@mcn-nsn.gov. For more information, please contact Gary Fife at 918-732-7643.





Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Sam Alexander was the guest during an hour-long call-in show April. 17 on Mvskoke Radio KOKL AM-1240 Okmulgee, Okla. The show airs at 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday.

**SPEAKER**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We immediately asked the attorney general to do so. He’s hired a guy.

I think it’s been a year. Any way you look at it, I think everybody’s had ample time to make determinations as to what kind of remedies the Nation might have but these things they take way too long for me as a businessman. Always understand that this is a government and governments do things a little differently.

I guess that’s about all I can tell you.

**Q. You haven’t got a specific direction or tactic yet?**

A. Basically, there were flaws in the design and there were flaws in some of the work. My understanding was that all the work, all the contractors that were in on it had been given a chance to remedy their work or disagree with the findings.

Again, that would be the substance of it. I understand that most, if not all of them indicated they wanted to remedy the problems. But, that was six months ago and we really haven’t gotten a good report in that amount of time. I expect we’ll be hearing something with the upcoming Council meetings. Administration always comes over for the planning session and they can expect these kinds of questions.

**Q. The final goal and desire is to have the Dome fixed and opened; that’s still the plan?**

A. That’s correct. As a matter of fact, I wouldn’t be surprised if it isn’t going to be a little bit better by the time they’re done.

**Q. Has the word ‘demolition’ been taken out of the discussions?**

A. Yeah, in fact that was one of the questions last night.

**Q. Can we give our listeners an update on the operation of the Creek Council House? We know that there were a lot of things that still had to be worked out, issues with the Creek Memorial Association, which housed and owns a lot of the artifacts, the day-to-day operations. Now that the tribe owns it, maybe future plans as well?**

A. There was an agreement that went along with the ownership of the property. It had to do with the contents. There was a bit of a dispute about several things that I really

don’t want to go into because I’m really uninformed about the specifics. I do remember being informed that the lease obligation was going to travel with the property. I think that has probably held up any formal action by the tribe.

With these two questions you’ve posed to me, the chief and his people would probably know more about it. There’s a two-year-old piece of legislation that allows the chief to have the building evaluated by structural engineers with a feasibility study actually conducted to look at what to do with that property.

*Council House*

**Q. The Memorial Association contract actually ran out but they’re still operating the facility. There has been remedial construction going on for a period of time. The association was asking the tribe to buy the artifacts. There was no inventory, asking price or details about the origins. So that’s a question that’s kind of hanging out there also. Is it at a point where you’re at loggerheads? Or are you still willing to talk and see if maybe there’s some middle ground here?**

A. One of their leaders passed away a little bit ago and I’m thinking that it may have cause a bit of confusion in this process. We were visited by a lady of the board that you’re referring to and she expressed the concerns that you had about these artifacts. Other citizens have expressed concerns about who really owns that stuff and is there an accurate inventory. Families who say that some things don’t belong to the Museum Association—they were loaned.

**Q. Was it a good thing that the tribe purchased the Council House?**

A. I don’t that the tribe was involved in the business part of it. From the numbers I saw I think that the doors were kept open. I didn’t see a bunch of money flying around. The tribe looked at it as simply reacquiring property that was wrongfully taken from them a long time ago.

**Q. Here’s a philosophical question about the National Council. There are a lot of closed sessions, emergency meetings—why so many? Wouldn’t some of the larger subjects, topics and expenditures that are the result of these meetings need to be discussed in public?**

A. Most of the stuff we discuss behind closed doors deal with litigation or proprietary business, things that we wouldn’t want known about. For example, our gaming revenues, we publish those. They’re available to tribal citizens but if we were doing something ‘intricate,’ that wouldn’t be discussed openly. Personnel matters, things like that, they wouldn’t be discussed in open session either. But otherwise we pretty well try to follow the Open Meeting Act. I’ve seen a time or two when national councils have actually been reluctant to go into executive session for the very same concerns you’re expressing.

**Q. How would the public be aware of the meetings? What are the methods you’re using?**

A. The agendas go out regularly. If the chief wants an emergency session, he’ll ask for one. We generally try to give the Council a couple of days but we actually have to poll them and get a majority of them to go along with holding an emergency session. We don’t like them any more than anybody else does but sometimes, you just can’t wait; you take action.

Generally, let’s say a bill is on the agenda and it’s discussed in executive session normally as soon as the session is over, they’ll vote on it. At that, there can be a bit of discussion as long as it doesn’t get into things that were discussed privately. For the most part, I can’t imagine anything that I wouldn’t discuss with a tribal citizen that had a ‘need to know it.’ I just can’t think of anything right now, except maybe a lawsuit. I mind talking about them while they’re going on.

**Q. We’ve noticed occasionally there may be a representative that has a problem showing up for meetings. Is there some sort of Council action that would be enacted in case someone had a problem with an absence record?**

A. You know, I hate to say it but we have internal rules on the National Council. It’s not a ‘sin’ but it’s one of the things we don’t like. I think personally, if you’re elected, you need to go to the meetings. You asked for the job. You asked for the people to send you up here and if there’s a meeting you need to be there.

The worst punishment the National Council could do to one of our members is to discipline them; maybe expel

them for one meeting. I believe that’s the strongest thing we could do. In the event that attendance really becomes a problem, it’s up to the people to impeach them. The National Council can’t take that kind of action against another National Council representative.

**Q. Along those lines, can a National Council representative be called for abstaining from votes, having a record of abstaining from votes?**

A. Well, I believe the only time that you should abstain is if you have a potential conflict of interest. Each National Council member has the right to vote as they feel.

*Hickory Ground*

**Q. Another issue that has been affecting the tribe is the ongoing controversy surrounding Hickory Ground and the ceremonial grounds back in Alabama. Can you give a status report and update on what’s going on with that issue?**

A. The Hickory Ground issue is still quite volatile. I believe the Hickory Ground objection has been funded by the National Council since before I came to the National Council in 2006. We took it up a notch last summer. They had an attorney contract expire and they elected to go in a different direction and hired a young man that promised results. He got them. He asked for a pretty good amount of money to generate some publicity for this effect nationwide. I believe they were able to pull that off.

From my perspective as a businessman, the appropriation that was given toward the Hickory Ground effort was designed to generate a bunch of activity and try to back Poarch Band into a corner and persuade them to see what we believe was the ‘error of their ways.’ The last thing that the effort was designed to do was threaten them with litigation if they didn’t stop.

I believe the effort was successful. It was a nationwide effort. It was well done but it didn’t prevent the Poarch Band from continuing their expansion effort.

In December, Hickory Ground through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation sued the Poarch Band Creeks over that matter. As it stands now, when you file a lawsuit, the parties that you sue are given opportunities to answer. They have to answer within a required amount of time and I don’t believe all those answers have come in.

I can tell you the Poarch Band officials have filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. So, it’s an ongoing litigation process now. We believe that once it’s in litigation, you need to just kind of be quiet and behave. We think the noise that has been made was well served. It’s really still ongoing but we haven’t thrown a bunch of money at this recently.

**Q. Do you ever see a time in the future that maybe the leaders may just all sit**

**down at a table and talk this all out?**

A. I think Chief Tiger (Principal Chief George Tiger) approached those guys and he went to see them two or three times that I know of. I won’t say that’s out of the realm of possibility but if that’s going to happen, it should have happened six months ago.

He (Tiger) made every effort to go out and see them. He can certainly say that he extended an olive branch out there to them and they simply weren’t receptive to the way we see things here as far as culture and respect for the dead, frankly.

**Q. Have you personally noticed that the Poarch Band wasn’t being open and receptive to discussing this and perhaps coming to some type of conclusion?**

A. They’ve been like ‘slippery white businessmen.’ That’s how they treated me. A year ago I met with one of their councilmen and had about a 30-minute talk with him. I was supposed to go back and talk with them. Never heard from them. We heard that they went ahead and covered up some more remains. They really didn’t want us down there while that was going on.

**Q. The Poarch Band stance is ‘this is our land and you guys in Oklahoma can’t tell what to do with our land?’**

A. I think that is certainly their position. It’s none of our business and that they’ve been respectful. We obviously don’t agree. What it reveals to me is that you get a bunch of lawyers together and they start talking about all these acronyms—NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act), all these federal laws and agencies. Basically, they don’t have any teeth. The people running them don’t have any guts either. Sadly, we’re finding that out.

**Q. There’s an item on the Business, Finance and Justice Committee agenda, legislation concerning a supplemental appropriation for the Principal Chief’s Office. The sum was \$456 plus thousand dollars. Can you tell us about that?**

A. No, not really. The bill came over, I believe in February. At that meeting the committee declined to take action on it. The same committee has met since. It hasn’t had any action taken by that committee and that’s where it stands. It has another shot at being adopted.

**Q. How would a citizen get ahold of you?**

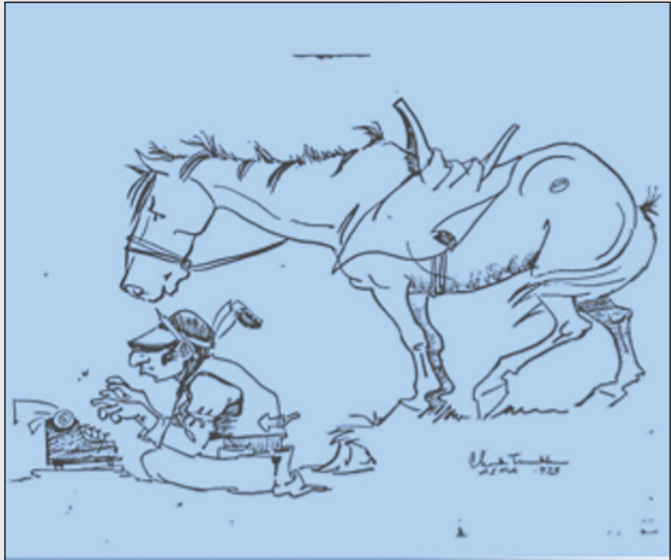
A. The easiest thing to do is go to the tribal website. There’s a little toolbar that pulls down. I think its called ‘Government.’ You’ll see ‘Legislative,’ there’s the place to click. If you do that, it’s basically a little website for the National Council. It has contact data for each Council member and cellphone numbers. We’re easy to find, easy to track down.

**Q. (Caller question) Has any of our Permanent Fund been spent?**

A. No.



# Emvpvnayv



## Jim Thorpe, Johnny Depp, Will Rogers and Recycling

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

The 2013 Mvskoke Festival is coming up this June. Once again, the tribal planners are looking to classic Motown as entertainment headliners. Smokey Robinson (remember “Tears of a Clown?”) Aaron Lewis and Natalie Cole will also grace the stage this year.

More entertainment stuff: Actor Wes Studi is set to become the second Native American inducted into the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Western Performers in Oklahoma City in mid-April.

A Cherokee guy, Studi appeared in a number of notable movies such as "Dances with Wolves," "The Last of the Mohicans" and "Geronimo: An American Legend," most always a ‘bad guy.’ But, that depends on your point of view. You could consider his roles as portraying a man defending his homeland.

Jay Silverheels is the only other American Indian in the Hall of Great Western Performers who played the original Tonto in the 1950s television series "The Lone Ranger."

But how about the new “Lone Ranger” coming out this spring?

Word has it, according to Hollywood sources; “new Tonto enjoys a rich backstory, including an authentic portrayal of his Comanche heritage. Disney and Depp quietly courted Native American approval long before cameras rolled on the \$250 million Gore Verbinski film. American Indian leaders were brought on during the script stage and were present throughout production.”

Comanche? I didn’t know that. And after all these years! Silverheels never brought any specific tribal background into the

role that I saw. Oh well, live and learn. LaDonna Harris fixed up Johnny Depp with an adoption as a Comanche, though. I’m curious as to how Depp keeps the stuffed crow on his head.

The Sac and Fox people may be seeing the return of the remains of Oklahoma’s great Olympic athlete Jim Thorpe. His sons have been fighting a battle to get the Pennsylvania town of “Jim Thorpe” to let go of the remains and return them to the tribes’ native soil. It was a business deal by Thorpe’s third wife that had the athlete’s body buried in a town that changed its name. The former towns of Mauch Chunk and East Mauch Chunk actually changed their names to ‘Jim Thorpe’ to capitalize on the fame of the Sac and Fox man.

I knew his daughter, the late Gail Thorpe, who spoke about wanting her father’s remains brought back to tribal lands.

Here’s hoping that everything works out and the repatriation takes place.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation now has its own recycling center in the tribal industrial park. It can really be helpful in bringing your household recycling materials to a handy spot for drop off. It can take newspaper, office paper, cardboard, plastics (#1 and #2) and aluminum.

It will not accept the hazardous stuff like paints, solvents and other such stuff. Please, please remember it is not meant to take your household garbage. Let’s respect the facility and put it to good use.

For those of use who are starting to feel our age, here is another borrowed Will Rogers quote that seems pertinent: “You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.”

I’m going to hoble back to my rocking chair. See ya at Festival! Hvtvm Cerehares.

# Students examine societal issues through art

## Eufaula dormitory hosts silent auction, art show

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

EUFULA, Okla. – Racism, bullying, suicide, domestic violence and drug and alcohol abuse. These were the topics that were expressed by the students at the Eufaula Dormitory April 18 in Eufaula, Okla., during the “This is How it Feels” art show.

The show was held for children to express feelings, thoughts, concerns and emotions and demonstrate their awareness on these topics. Members of the Eufaula Dormitory faculty, parents, grandparents and employees of Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) looked over the paintings and bid on which ones that they wanted.

Because of the subject matter, the project was supervised and coordinated by Licensed Art/Behavioral Therapist Gayla Norman. Norman feels that this kind of therapy can help children convey emotions and feelings about their experiences.

“We had the kids go and paint about whatever they wanted on how they feel,” Norman said. “One of these kids is bound to have these problems. So we want them to express how they feel about it. They can go and paint and look at it and see exactly how it feels. Being an art therapist, that is basically what we do; we get the kids’ feelings and emotions out

## Muscogee (Creek) craftsman shares knowledge

**Sterling Cospser**  
*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — “This is exhausting,” said Odette Freeman, Assistant Manager with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Cultural Preservation Department.

Freeman took a short break to wash metallic residue from her hands and returned to a can making class April 11 sponsored by her department and taught by Muscogee (Creek) Craftsman Billy Jack Wilson.

“We wanted to start doing things like this to perpetuate how these things are made,” Freeman said.

Women in traditional Muscogee (Creek) culture utilize can shakers (cans) by tying them around their legs during a stompdance and shaking the cans to keep time while the men sing.

These women are referred to as shellshakers because turtle shells were originally and are still used for this purpose.

Wilson makes and sells both can and turtle shakers as a second source of income but only teaches how to make cans.

“Only thing about the turtle shells is, it’s hard to get all the turtles and everything; it’s a long process,” Wilson said.

While turtle shakers are difficult to make, a pair of Wilson’s can shakers may sell for up to \$120.

“Selling these cans kind of



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Students at the Eufaula Dormitory color April 18 during the ‘This is How it Feels’ art show.

there on paint.”

Over 50 acrylic paintings were on exhibit at the show. Those who attended were allowed to look over the paintings and place a bid during a silent auction.

Ten-year-old students Tyler and Lyruc talked about their paintings and what they meant.

“My painting has ‘Don’t smoke’ on it,” Tyler said. “My grandpa died from smoking and so I wanted my painting to be about that. I did not sell my painting because I want to give it to my mom.”

“My painting says ‘Don’t do drugs,’ ” Lyruc said. “Drugs are bad for you. They can make you get rotten teeth.”

The MCN Youth Wellness Department provided art supplies and canvases for the show. Youth Wellness Prevention Counselor, Tricia Alexander attended the art show and was very excited at the positive turnout.

“All of the paintings stood out to me,” Alexander said. “I didn’t realize that they were artists. They were hiding that talent from me. A lot of the paintings were very deep and very touching. A lot of them were concerns for other people in their lives or things that they have seen or been around.”

From the art show, there were 51 paintings on display and of the paintings, 21 were sold. The total amount generated by the auction was \$133 and individual students kept the proceeds from their paintings.

“It was a success,” Alexander said. “A lot of paintings have been bought. Some were not for sale. Some of the kids wanted to give their paintings to their loved ones. We will be having another art show in the future where to paintings will be available to the public.”



MNN/Sterling Cospser

Muscogee (Creek) Craftsman Billy Jack Wilson (right) helps a student during a can making class April 11 held by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Cultural Preservation.

helps him out and for him to come down and provide this teaching to people who could one day be his competition is really special,” said David Proctor, Cultural Advisor with the MCN Cultural Preservation Department.

Freeman’s daughter Lilly Powell, who attended the class with her mother, explained why she wished to learn this skill.

“I can’t really afford to buy them,” Powell said. “I’m going to show a lot of other people so they know how.”

This motive is right in line with Wilson’s for instructing the course.

“I sell them but I teach just to keep it going,” Wilson said.

According to Proctor, his department is sponsoring the class

for the same reason.

“It is an art form so we want to keep it going,” Proctor said. “It is a big part of our ceremonies and our singing. We need to be able to continue to make these.”

MCN Community Research and Development Manager Sarai Geary was in attendance and also plans to share what she learned.

“It is just a part of passing on the traditions,” she said.

She hopes to share her experience in another capacity as well.

“I want to be able to give gifts and make them for my family,” Geary said.

Geary attends stompdances and will use what she learned in this class to help maintain her cultural wares.

“I wanted to learn how to fix my cans,” she said.

This variety of motives has helped make the class a success.

“The first class we had booked up really quick,” Proctor said.

Proctor hopes to be able to continue and expand these classes.

“If there’s an interest in it we’ll try to keep it going,” he said. “We’re hoping to have a couple of people that are able to instruct like he’s doing in other places.”

Cultural Preservation plans to schedule more courses based on demand. Classes and materials are free and open to Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

For more details call Cultural Preservation Secretary Johnnie Wesley at: 918-732-7733.



# The Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

# “Doing Business in Indian Country”

## 11th annual Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**Moderators:**  
**Hon. Gregory H. Bigler, BS, JD, LL.M, Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge**  
**Jasen Chadwick, JD – Staff Attorney - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court**

**Faculty Members:**  
**Stacy Leeds, JD – Dean, University of Arkansas College of Law**  
**Judith V. Royster, JD – Professor of Law, University of Tulsa College of Law**  
**G.W. Rice, JD – Professor of Law, University of Tulsa College of Law**  
**Steve Hager, JD – Director of Litigation - Oklahoma Indian Legal Services**  
**Hon. Philip D. Lujan, JD – Chief District Judge, Citizen Potawatomi Nation**  
**Sarah Deer, JD – Professor of Law, William Mitchell College of Law**  
**Gavin Clarkson, PHD – Professor, New Mexico State University College of Business**  
**Dawn Bigler – Menominee Tribal Citizen and Traditionalist**  
**Josephine Bigler – Euchee Citizen and Traditionalist**  
**Robert Yargee – Mekko, Alabama Quassarte Ceremonial Grounds and Traditionalist**  
**Chrissy Nimmo, JD – Assistant Attorney General, Cherokee Nation**  
**Jeff Davis, JD – Executive Director - Indian Law and Order Commission**  
**Travis Pickens, JD – Oklahoma Bar Association Ethics Counsel**

Conference Fee: \$225.00  
Daily Rate – \$150 / Day  
12 Hours of CLE Credit  
Including one hour of ethics



May 9-10, 2013  
River Spirit Event Center  
8330 Riverside Pkwy.  
Tulsa, Okla.

### Day One - May 9, 2013

**8:00 Registration and Breakfast**  
**8:40 Opening Ceremony**  
**8:45 Welcome and Introduction – Gregory H. Bigler**  
**9:00 The Present and Future of Tribal Jurisdiction – Gregory H. Bigler**  
**09:50 Break**  
**10:00 ICWA: A Traditional Perspective and Legal Analysis – Dawn & Josephine Bigler/ Steve Hager**  
**11:00 Baby Veronica: From Family Court to the Supreme Court - Chrissy Nimmo**  
**11:50 Lunch – Visions Buffet**  
**1:10 Traditional Law and Culture: A Mekko’s Perspective - Robert Yargee/Gregory H. Bigler**

**2:00 Break**  
**2:10 National Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform - Stacy Leeds**  
**3:10 Now that TLOA and VAWA Reauthorization have Passed, How is Indian Country Changing? - Jeff Davis**  
**4:00 Question & Answer Session and Evaluations of Day 1 – All Faculty and Speakers**

### Day Two - May 10, 2012

**7:45 Registration and Breakfast**  
**8:15 Opening Remarks – Gregory H. Bigler**  
**8:30 HEARTH Act: Restoring the Ability of Tribes to Control the Leasing of Tribal Lands – Judith Royster**  
**9:30 Legal Issues in Tribal Finance and Economic Development– Gavin Clarkson**  
**10:20 Break**  
**10:30 Intercultural Communication Implications of Contemporary Tribal Courts - Phil Lujan**  
**11:20 Lunch Break**  
**12:50 Trending Now: Ethics and Professional Responsibilities in a Nut Shell – Travis A. Pickens**  
**1:40 Break**  
**1:50 Violence Against Women Act: 2013 Reauthorization – Sarah Deer**  
**2:50 A Professorial Look at Tribal Jurisdiction – G. William Rice**

REGISTRATION FORM

DOING BUSINESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY 2013

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Firm/Organization\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

OBA Member \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_NoOBA Bar # \_\_\_\_\_E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Muscogee (Creek) District Court - CLE Program and mail form to:  
Muscogee (Creek) District Court  
P.O. Box 652  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
For more information, contact Chris Azbell at 918-758-1400 or via email  
at: cazbell@mcndistrictcourt.com  
Visit us at [www.muscogeecreektribalcourt.org](http://www.muscogeecreektribalcourt.org)

Group hotel rates are available at Marriot Hotel Tulsa Southern Hills with market code: CLEC, PMS: 10302.  
For more information, call 918-493-7000.



THANK YOU

The family of Helen Coon would like to thank everyone that prayed for her, provided food and sang hymns as she went to be with her Lord Jesus Christ on March 15. Mvto to those that sent flowers and participated in her services on March 18-19. There were many that helped us during our last hours with her and in the days that followed.

Thank you to Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) for offering to help us with whatever we needed and to Okmulgee First Baptist Church for the use of their sanctuary for the wake and the funeral services. Thanks to Revs. Fred Lindsey, Jimmy Alexander, Ray Samuel, Jimmy Anderson and those who offered words of comfort and encouragement. Thanks to our Principal Chief George Tiger for his participation in reading the obituary and the donation of the Pendleton blankets.

Thank you to Native Praise Choir for the songs Helen loved to sing with them and to the MCN Lighthouse Police Department for the great escort to Ft. Gibson National Cemetery. Thank you to Belvin Indian Baptist Church for feeding those left behind after the wake and funeral services and other churches that helped and expressed their love and support during those hours of sorrow.

Thanks to the MCN Division of Health and James Floyd with the Department of Veterans Affairs for your presence and many others who prayed for us and called and provided encouragement. Mvto to all of you. The Phillip Coon Family.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health  
Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse Services  
**FIGHT THE SPREAD OF METH IN YOUR COMMUNITY**  
**Celebration of Collaboration Luncheon**  
First Assembly of God, Okmulgee  
May 14th ~ Tuesday  
11:00AM to 1PM  
**Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Agency/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be setting up an informational booth at the event?    Yes    No

Booth Info:    Number of tables: \_\_\_\_\_    Number of Chairs: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be providing a door prize for the event?    Yes    No

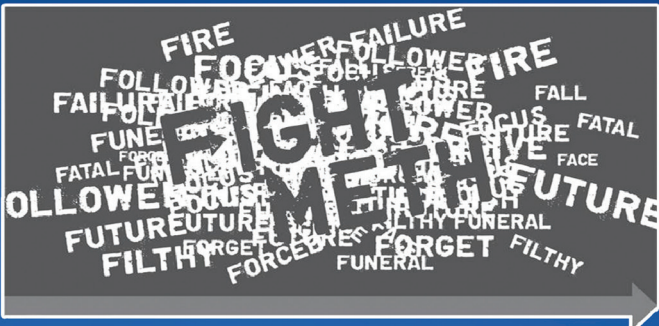
*Please plan to have your booth set up by 10:45.*

Please Register ASAP by Email or Fax to:  
[ayrian.hernandez@creekhealth.org](mailto:ayrian.hernandez@creekhealth.org) Or (918) 758-1920 Fax, Attn: Rena Hernandez

**Deadline: May10<sup>th</sup>**

For more information, please contact Rena Hernandez or Leslie Crow  
with the Methamphetamine & Suicide Prevention Initiative at  
(918) 758-1930.

Celebration of Collaboration  
Fight the Spread of Meth in Your Community



**Tuesday, May 14, 2013 \* 11:00 am-1:00 pm**  
**First Assembly of God**  
**301 N. Seminole, Okmulgee, OK 74447**  
Resource Booths open at 11:00 am \* Panel Presentation at 11:30 am  
**Lunch will be provided!**  
**Door Prize drawings, free t-shirts, and other promotional items!!**

Please join us for a panel presentation from experts in the fields of prevention, treatment, law enforcement, probation, recovery and others, as they share what each field is seeing in the areas of methamphetamine abuse prevention, current trends, and other related issues.

Panelists will also share their views on how we can all collaborate together to “fight the spread of meth in your community” and what communities need to mobilize and be more effective in preventing methamphetamine abuse.

For more information, please contact Rena Hernandez or Leslie Crow with the  
Methamphetamine & Suicide Prevention Initiative at (918) 758-1930  
Please RSVP by May 10, 2013





## Remembering the 'Battling Bastards of Bataan'

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Contributor

Recently, I was asked to accompany Muscogee (Creek) citizen Michael Coon on a trip to the Philippine Islands to retrace parts of the route his father Phillip Coon walked as a prisoner of war during World War II. The Japanese Army held Phillip and other American soldiers as prisoners of war. Philip served in the U.S. Army and was held prisoner from April 1942 to August 1945.

Although they were told that help was coming, Phillip’s unit and others fought valiantly and kept the enemy at bay from January to April. When no assistance came and they knew they were deserted, they kept fighting. Their capture was due to a lack of reinforcements and supplies while trying to fight an enemy that possessed every necessity. The horrible conditions they faced while imprisoned by the Japanese resulted in Phillip’s company creating the name, “The Battling Bastards of Bataan,” which also resulted in a unique poem:

*We are the battling bastards of Bataan,  
no mamma, no papa, no Uncle Sam.  
No Aunts, no Uncles, no nephews or nieces,  
no guns or weapons, no artillery pieces  
and nobody gives a damn.*

I was honored. Phillip wanted to make the journey but he and Michael both knew that a 13-hour flight and 100-degree heat would not be a

# Creek Veteran Travels to Asia to Honor Fallen



MNN/Gerald Wofford  
Muscogee Creek Veteran Michael Coon during a trip to the Philippines to honor Muscogee (Creek) veterans.

healthy environment for him. It should be noted however; that Phillip did return to the Philippines almost 10 years ago when he and other death march survivors retraced their journey for a History Channel documentary.

The trip would be memorable for Michael. Just last month he said goodbye to his Mother Helen who had lived a great life of 92 years. She had been sick for a while and Michael had considered postponing the trip or not going at all. However, his mother understood the significance and told him before she passed that he needed to honor his father and other Creek veterans. Michael told her he would.

Growing up, Michael’s mother and father provided an environment conducive to his positive outlook later in life. This was one of the reasons that continued the family’s commitment to serve by signing up for military duty during the Vietnam era. Michael’s

son, Staff Sergeant Michael Keith Coon also shares these beliefs and served in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army.

This philosophy also motivated Michael to make this trip to the Philippines to honor Muscogee (Creek) veterans like: William Sarty, Willie Ellis, Ben Grayson, Richard Bevenue and Wayne W. McHenry, who all suffered similar atrocities during the war. All would return home except Sarty who was placed on a Japanese “hell ship,” vessels aptly named due to their horrible conditions. Hell ships crammed prisoners together with little or no food or ventilation and gave them no proper areas to relive themselves.

For our trip, Michael and I were part of an American tour group that flew out of San Francisco. The group contained other veterans and family members of those who served. We were the only Native Americans on the tour.

I kept on my toes to stay

with Michael as he laid wreaths at places like the Pacific War Memorial and the Bataan Memorial Landmark where we attended a historic national ceremony April 9 to commemorate the anniversary of the fall of the Philippines. President of the Philippines, Mr. Benigno S. Acqino III, Mr. Harry K. Thomas, Jr. U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines spoke during the ceremony and Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines, Mr. Toshiano Urabe gave a public apology from the actions of the government during the war.

A statue of Gen. Douglas MacArthur on the beautiful coasts contained the words, “I shall return.” MacArthur is a controversial figure who is regarded as a savior or deserter with some veterans giving him the name of “dug-out Doug.” The Philippine Islands and their clear colorful sea coasts makes it difficult to imagine that 71 years ago, planes cov-

ered the air and bombs and bullets caused destruction as dead bodies populated beaches and hillsides.

The time difference between Oklahoma and the Philippines is 13 hours with the Asian islands being ahead. I arranged for a live interview on Mvs-koke Radio with Michael and others on the trip. The interview required us to be on stand by for a 10:30 p.m. call on Wednesday to be heard live in Okmulgee at 9:30 a.m. A local Philippine TV news station also interviewed Michael and a nice lady named Jeanie who had served as a nurse during the war.

As the final days of the tour winded down, Michael was able to see more markers along the road indicating the actual path of the march that lead to the Capas Memorial, one of the final destinations for the prisoner soldiers before being sent on “hell ships” bound for Japan or areas nearby. A railroad boxcar at Capas used for the prisoners was also on display.

It was chilling to see the ground that Phillip and other U.S. soldiers walked upon realizing the dramatic and horrible event that occurred. When it was announced on the bus that we were nearing the final mile to the memorial, Michael asked to be allowed to exit and walk the rest of the path.

The final stop would be the hallowed ground of an American war cemetery. There Michael would lay another wreath to honor all the veterans he had made the trip for. In doing so, he rubbed a copy of each of their names from a giant monument on a white piece of paper. He gave a final salute to each soldier thanking them for their service and walked away slowly. His mission for this trip was accomplished.

MCN Housing Services Presents

Open to all Creek Home Owners

DIY May 7, 2013 & May 14, 2013 WORKSHOPS

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Housing Building – Room 126

MAY 7, 2013

Toilets, Sinks & Faucets  
Plumbing Appliances

MAY 14, 2013

Electrical  
Heat & Air



Space is limited...please call Lora King @ 918-549-2572 to register.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR MAY 2013

## BENEFIT FUND RAISER OR JESSICA POWELL MAY 4

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A benefit fund raiser for Jessica Powell is set for May 4 at the Holdenville Indian Community Center located at 224 E. Poplar.

Funds collected will go towards cancer treatment expenses.

Breakfast will be served from 8-10 a.m., and will be \$8 per plate. Plates include bacon, sausage, eggs, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, and orange juice or coffee.

Lunch will begin at 11 a.m. Indian tacos will be \$7. Hamburgers, stew and chili will also be available.

Grocery bingo will begin at 1 p.m., and is \$10 for 20 games.

For more information, contact Anna Givens at 405-651-9454 or Alexa Grass at 405-584-0446.

## AARP NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR INDIAN ELDER HONORS

OKLAHOMA CITY — Recognizing the important impact Indian elders have on the fabric of the state, AARP Oklahoma will once celebrate Indian elders at its fifth annual Indian Elder Honors.

AARP is now accepting nominations for Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors through June 1.

Nominations can be made online at: [www.aarp.org/ok](http://www.aarp.org/ok) or by mail.

## SMITH FAMILY REUNION SET FOR MAY 25

CARSON, Okla. — The Smith Family Reunion will be held May 25 beginning at 10 a.m.

The gathering will be held at Billy Ray Smith's home.

Please bring a covered dish for the potluck meal. There will be door prizes, a cakewalk, old family pictures and more.

All are invited for a fun-filled day and to reunite with our families. For more information, call 918-656-3521.

## EVELYN QUINTON



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Evelyn Victoria Quinton, 84, a resident of Okmulgee, Okla., passed away Jan. 27 in Tulsa, Okla.

Quinton was born Oct. 14, 1928 to Henry Clay Haynes and Nicey Jacobs Haynes in rural McIntosh County, Okla. She grew up around Henryetta, Okla. and attended Ryal, Okla. public school.

Quinton married the love of her life, Leroy Quinton Jan. 29, 1952. They remained happily married for 33 years until his death March 14, 1985.

Quinton was a certified nurses' aide and worked for over 15 years at Lake Drive Nursing Home in Henryetta. She retired from Lake Drive in 1991 at the age of 71. She had a very special attachment to the residents of Lake Drive and always referred to them as her kids. She was known for her parting comments after a visit with someone

saying, "I love you." She made everyone feel loved and her loving spirit remains an inspiration to her family.

Quinton is preceded by her: husband Leroy Quinton, mother and father, son Bobby Gene Quinton, brothers James 'Sonny' Haynes and Norman Haynes, stepfather Oscar Long, son-in-law Terry Quinton and sisters-in-law Sue and Roxie Haynes.

She is survived by her: sons Jerry and Gary Quinton and Norman Cummings with wife Teresa, daughters Mickey Romaine with husband Jerry, Nancy Dye with husband Rudy, Brenda Sanders with husband Glenn, Rhonda Crandell with husband Calvin and Mary Howard with husband Rob, 20 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren, sisters Lu Crofut and Pauline Forrest, stepsister Pauline Counts, brothers Bill Haynes with wife Delores and Elmer, Vernon and Hoover Haynes as well as many nieces, nephews and other extended family and good friends.

A funeral service for Quinton was held Jan. 30 at the First Baptist Church of Dewar, Okla. with Rev Jack Vance and Rev. Steve Treagesser officiating. Interment followed at Westlawn Cemetery under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service of Henryetta. Pallbearers were Quinton's grandsons.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT  
FILED  
2013 APR 16 AM 10 24  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
DONNA BEAVER  
COURT CLERK

In the Matter of the Guardianship  
of A.T.T., born 11/10/95, a minor child.

)  
) No. GD 2013-10

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: APRIL JARDOT

You are hereby notified that EDWARD TARPALACHEE has filed in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, a petition praying that Letters of Guardianship be issued to him upon the person and estate of A.T.T., a minor.

And that the 14 day of June, 2013, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court at Okmulgee, Oklahoma, has been appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition, when and where any persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they can, why such appointment should not be made.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.

DONNA BEAVER, Court Clerk

By: Sharon McInerney  
Deputy

Luke Gaither, MCN Bar #148  
Attorney for Petitioner



# NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY A HOME

Home ownership may seem out of reach, but it might not be. We want everyone to experience the joy of owning a home, which is why Arvest works with you to help create a pathway to home ownership.

If you are considering buying a home in the future,  
**Call an Arvest Mortgage Loan Officer today!**  
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Completion of Arvest's online Financial Literacy Training course on mortgage loans is required to receive discount. Online course must be completed by June 30, 2013 and loan must close by August 31, 2013 to qualify. \$100 will be deducted from closing costs upon closing of Arvest Mortgage loan. Offer good on new purchase transactions only. Deduction cannot be applied to any amount required for down payment, any fee financed, or seller or any third party paid closing costs. In the event the seller or any third party pays 100% of the buyer's closing costs and pre-paid fees the buyer will not be eligible for the \$100 credit.



# MCN citizens urged to register to vote and update addresses

**Media Release**  
*MCN Election Board*

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Election Board mailed out post cards April 2012. The following registered voters have undeliverable addresses and have been placed on an invalid list. The **Election Board** requests these voters contact the **board** at: 918-732-7631, 732-7685, 732-7736 or by e-mail at: election@mcn-nsn.gov.

It is in your best interest to keep your address up to date to avoid problems when you go to the polls to vote or to receive an absentee ballot. Enrolled MCN citizens who are 18-years-old or older are eligible to vote. Voting is a benefit as a tribal member.

Abbott, Andy Russell  
Abel, Margaret Alice  
Acheson(Moore)Marilyn R.  
Achzet, Virginia Ann  
Adair, Harold Dean  
Adair, June Mildred  
Adams, Charlie  
Adams, Gary Wayne  
Adams Jr., James Lyons  
Adams, Mark Stefan  
Adams(King)Nancy Muriel  
Adams, Neal Victor  
Adams(Rinehart)Paula Sue  
Adams III, Willie Steven  
Addison, Reanna VaRene  
Ade, Shirlene Mae  
Adolph, Gregory Lysle  
Adolph, Jeffery Eugene  
Akers Jr., Donald Gene  
Akers, Thomas Fredrick  
Akins(Lout), Cynthia Marie  
Alden-Kinne, Christena Sue  
Aldridge(Watashe)Sophrona  
Alexander, April Spring  
Alexander, Bernice Carol  
Alexander, Cari Marie  
Alexander, David Clinton  
Alexander, George S.  
Alexander, James Alan  
Alexander, Lela Ellen  
Alexander, Mary Francis  
Alexander, Rick R.  
Alexander, Robert Jerry  
Alexander, Ronnie Leroy  
Alexander, Summer Brook  
Alexander, Willie T.  
Allen, Carl Ray  
Allen, Marvin Gregory  
Allen (Tiger), Melissa  
Allen, Shereen Lanier  
Allen, Twila Ann  
Alley, Randall Lee  
Alley, Tommy Joe  
Alley, Wilma Gene  
Allison, Robert Ray  
Alsup, Clyde Frederick  
Alsup, Velma Edna  
Alvarez, Tami Renee  
Anderson, Amanda Elaine  
Anderson, Bobby Carl  
Anderson, Darren Eugene  
Anderson, Derrick Eugene  
Anderson, Elizabeth Nichole  
Anderson, Erica Breanne  
Anderson, Gregory Allen  
Anderson, Gregory Gerald  
Anderson, Josephine  
Anderson(Harvey)Kathryn  
Anderson, Nathan Edwin  
Anderson, Robert Clarence  
Anderson Jr., Robert F.  
Anderson, Robin Lee  
Anderson, Solomon Knox  
Anderson, Steven David  
Anderson, Susan Denise  
Anderson, Tiffany Anqunita  
Anderson, Veletta Jean  
Anderson, William Ray  
Andy, William  
Ansiel, Billy Joe  
Antelope, Yvonne  
Anthony,(Reynold) Deresa  
Antwine, Sandra Lanel  
Applegate(Lackey)Pamela G.  
Aquino, Domingo Allen  
Arbuckle, Carol Ann  
Archer, Byron Lee  
Archer, Clyde Marshall  
Archer, Doni Kaye  
Archer, Mark Ashley  
Archer, Melissa Jane  
Archer, Roni Sue  
Arledge(Knox)Margoletta  
Armer,Hazel Louella  
Armitage, Kristen Ashely  
Armstrong, Dean Edwin  
Armstrong, Rhonda Gail  
Arnett(Sullins), Tenia Elaine  
Arnn, Jana Michelle  
Arnn, Kari Leanne  
Arnold, Jon Lewis  
Arpoika, Bobby Islo  
Arpoika, Brad Lee  
Arredondo(Buck)Cheryl R.  
Arterberry, Mary Esther

Arzola(Keller)Sherri Lynn  
Asbury, Donnie  
Asbury, Lillian Jo  
Ashton, Dyanna Lee  
Asimenu(Montgomery)Janet  
Atkins-Clerc, Ambra Dianne  
Atkins, Carlos Wayne  
Atkins(Miller)Kathy Jeanette  
Atkins, Paula Elaine  
Atkins Jr., William Norvel  
Atkins, William Norvel  
Atterberry, Martina Jo  
Aubrey, Sheri Lynn  
Audrain (Wood), Gertrude  
Ault(Warren), Cheri Renee  
Ault, Richard Brian  
Aultman, Christopher Todd  
Aultman, Julie Micheille  
Autaubo, George Henry  
Ayers, John David  
Baccus Jr., Irving William  
Baccus, Nathan Lang  
Bailey (Harrell), Betty Lou  
Bailey, CaSandra Pauline  
Bailey, Dana Beth  
Bailey (Beaver), Robin K.  
Bailey, Trevor Lee  
Baker (Jennings) Alice Deann  
Baker, Chris Ladawn  
Baker, Ivan  
Baker, James Theodore  
Baker, Leon  
Baker, Ronald Butler  
Baker, Tana Jean  
Baldridge, Ada Lynn  
Baldridge, James Michael  
Baldridge, Paul Anthony  
Baldridge, Shawn David  
Baldridge, Steven Joseph  
Bales, Jeffrey Oliver  
Bales, Mel Ray  
Bales, Rhonda Ann  
Ball (Steele), Casey Dawn  
Ballard, Ametra DeLaine  
Ballard, Gena Gay  
Baney, Edith Marie  
Banks, Bobbie Starr  
Banks (Bird), Carol Elaine  
Banks, Elmer Ray  
Banks, Lori Lea  
Banks, Melissa Anne  
Banks, Rena Kaye  
Barber, Linda Jane  
Barlow Jr., Charles A.  
Barnes, Barney Lee  
Barnes, Bobby Ray  
Barnes, Carolyn Louise  
Barnes (Williams) Donna K.  
Barnes, Lesa Marie  
Barnes, Reashinda Jo  
Barnes, Summer Leigh  
Barnett, Acee  
Barnett, Amanda Narvonna  
Barnett, Bruce Kelly  
Barnett, Christopher Todd  
Barnett, Clifton Bill  
Barnett, Cody Brian  
Barnett, Daniel Ray  
Barnett, Darby Arlene  
Barnett, Darrell Marcus  
Barnett, David Luke  
Barnett, Dickey Phillip  
Barnett, Eddie  
Barnett, Emmaunel Chris.  
Barnett, Evangeline Joyce  
Barnett, Frederick Wayne  
Barnett, Gail Jackson  
Barnett, Janice Dee  
Barnett, Joshua Adam  
Barnett, Justin Dale  
Barnett Jr, Lewis  
Barnett, Matthew W.  
Barnett, Michael Shannon  
Barnett, Mitchell A.  
Barnett, Mitchell Harjo  
Barnett, Monte Neil  
Barnett, Palmer  
Barnett, Ramona Sue  
Barnett, Russell  
Barnett, Sandra Carole  
Barnett, William Bradley  
Barnoski, Phillip Lee  
Barratt(Gotts), Virginia Sue  
Barrett, Carlene Cleona  
Barron(Manwarring)Delorse

Barry, Richard Louis  
Barsh(Baker) Regina C.  
Bartlow, Lorrie Louise  
Bartlow, Stephanie Ann  
Bartmess, Dione Marie  
Barton(Kelley), Brenda Carol  
Barton (Hart), Rosella B.  
Barzellone, Justin Samuel  
Basquez, Gary Lynn  
Bass(Townsend), June I.  
Bass, Rosanna  
Battiest, David Wayne  
Battiest, Ramona Inez  
Battiest, Rufus William  
Baughman, Carrie Michelle  
Baughman, David Preston  
Baughman, Terri Lynn  
Baxter(Kezer), Melinda V.  
Bayer(Rowe), Gina Marie  
Beach, Cody Donathan  
Beach, Monica Lea  
Beach Jr., Robert Lee  
Beal, Kimberly Ann  
Bean, Gary Dale  
Bean, Meggin Elizabeth  
Bean, Shirley Ann  
Bear, Anthony Carmen  
Bear, Benita Kay  
Bear, Birdie Lee  
Bear(Grayson) Clara Christine  
Bear, Clifford Franklin  
Bear, Dale Lucus  
Bear, David Keith  
Bear, Deborah Diane  
Bear, Eddie Lee  
Bear, Henry Michael  
Bear, Jamison Oliver  
Bear, Joyce Ann  
Bear, Kathryn Jean  
Bear, Kelly Renee  
Bear, Little Rock  
Bear, Lonetta Sue  
Bear, Marvin Bruce  
Bear, Mary Rose-Marie  
Bear, Michael Wayne  
Bear, Roark George  
Bear, Robie Jean  
Bear, Wyiquita Renee  
Bearpaw, Joshua Wayne  
Bearpaw, Raymond  
Beasley(Lowe), Diana Lynn  
Beaver, Alyne  
Beaver, Barbara June  
Beaver, Benjamin David  
Beaver, Brent Bert  
Beaver, Dane Kardell  
Beaver, Deborah Anna  
Beaver, Jody Neeha  
Beaver, John Ross  
Beaver, Lisa Dawn  
Beaver, Mindy Kaye  
Beaver, Sheldon Ray  
Beaver, Tori Ann  
Beaver Sr., Ward Allen  
Beebe, Brian Keith  
Bell (Kelley), Mary Ann  
Bell, Jr., Tony Lee  
Bell Jr., William Roger  
Bellamy, Robert Joseph  
Ben, Betty Jo  
Benedict( Wesley)Jessica E.  
Benedict, Sarah Marie  
Benham, Vickey Ruth  
Bennefield, Harold Porter  
Bennett (Watt), Cassandra Ben-  
nett, James Vardeman  
Bennett, Sammy Lynn  
Bennett(Mouser), Sandra Kay  
Benson, Philip Morris  
Berg (Barnett), Cindy  
Bergman (Supernaw),Carol L.  
Bernard, Bernardine Beth  
Bernard, William Peter  
Berrones(Anama) Melissa C.  
Berry, John Wesley  
Berry, Lanita Lynn  
Berry, Paula Darlene  
Berry, Shane Tyrone  
Berry, Sharon Kay  
Berryhill, Aaron Dale  
Berryhill, Adrian Lee  
Berryhill, Allen Duel  
Berryhill, Anderson  
Berryhill, Brett Wayne  
Berryhill, Chubby Riley

Berryhill, Delaina Ellen  
Berryhill, Diana Lynn  
Berryhill (Simms), Emma  
Berryhill Jr., Garry Eugene  
Berrryhill, George Leonard  
Berryhill, James Robin  
Berryhill Sr., Jim Thorpe  
Berryhill, John William  
Berryhill, Katrina Dawn  
Berryhill, Kolepah Jo  
Berryhill, Larry Mose  
Berryhill, Leonard Lee  
Berryhill, Loren Wayne  
Berryhill, Mark Dewayne  
Berryhill, Nicole Michelle  
Berryhill Jr., Paul Richey  
Berryhill, Phillip Mose  
Berryhill, Richard Michael  
Berryhill(Whitlow)Shirley A.  
Berryhill(McHenry), Stacey  
Berryhill, Tamara Joan  
Berryhill, Walter Sammie  
Berryhill, Wane Morris  
Bertsch, Sarah Nicole  
Beshear, Coy Ray  
Best, Chester Hogan  
Best, Ernest Gerald  
Best, John Hogan  
Beth, Jammie Lynn  
Bethel, David Wayne  
Bethel(Murphy)Pearla Mae  
Bettis(Hilton)Mildred L.  
Bevenue, Alfred William  
Bevenue, Cynthia Renee  
Bevenue, Donald William  
Bevenue, Joseph Kent  
Bezzell(Narcomey)Gloria Ann  
Bible, Andrea Lynette  
Bible, Billie Jean  
Bible, Dustin Paul  
Bible, Eugene Edward  
Bible, Jarod Taylor  
Bible, Jerry Wayne  
Bible, Mallory Elisa-Danie  
Bible, Sharalee  
Bigler, Michael David  
Bigpond, Emmanuel Louis  
Bigpond, Gregory Gene  
Bigpond, Jason Mario  
Bigpond, Jeanine Amy  
Bigpond, Karl Darren  
Bigpond, Lucille  
Bigpond, Negiel Lewis  
Bigpond, Thomas Vincent  
Billie, Daniel  
Billings, Melissa Ann  
Billy Jr., John David  
Billy Jr., Johnny William  
Billy Zerndorf  
Billy, Chastity Lynn  
Billy, Delia Ann  
Billy, Farrell Wayne  
Binam, Krista Marie  
Bingham (Click) Tammy Lea  
Bingman, Bradd Bishop  
Bingman, Brooks Earle  
Bird, Danielle Elizabeth  
Bird, James Edward  
Birdcreek, Diana  
Birdcreek (Thomas) Donna S.  
Birdcreek, Karen Denise  
Birdwell, William Britt  
Bishop, Jason Lee  
Black (Bevenue) Caroly Ruth  
Black, Lindsey Lynn  
Blackburn, Dayman Lee  
Blackwell, Douglas Alvin  
Blackwell, Herbert Lee  
Blackwell, Phoebe Mae  
Bland, Dennis Gene  
Blankenship (Hawkins) Linda  
Blankenship, Ricky Wayne  
Bledsoe, Daniel Lee  
Block (Webb), Margaret C.  
Bodley, Carly, Michelle  
Boen Jr., Doyal Kirby  
Boen, Jasper Ferl  
Boen, Lillie Mae  
Boerstler, Darrell Lee  
Bolden, Mary Ann  
Boles, Frank T. Holland  
Boneau(Pruet) Kathryn Jean  
Bonner Jr., Sterling Joseph  
Bonner, Rebecca Sue  
Boone, Amelia Marie

Boone, Connie Eleesha  
Boone, Saleema Fareed  
Boone, Travis Ray  
Booth, David Anthony  
Booth, Sara Jane  
Border (Couch), Peggy P.  
Borlaug, Marlene Christine  
Bosen, Scott Ray  
Bosin,(Butler), Sandra Lea  
Boswell, Brian Keith  
Botone, Billy J  
Bouchie, Kristy Lynn  
Bowen, Hadley Kanna  
Bowers, Donna Elouise  
Bowles, Freda Annette  
Bowman, James Grant  
Boyd (Danna), Carla Denise  
Boyd, Anita Jane  
Boyd (Foster) Ida May  
Boyd, Joan  
Boyet, Mable Lorene  
Boyles, (Thomas) Margaret E.  
Bradley, Brian Alan  
Bradshaw (Butler) Valerie A.  
Bradwell (Whitlow) Kristie A.  
Brady (Bowman) Mary Allen  
Branch, John Billy  
Branch, Scottie LaDean  
Brand, Doris  
Brand, Guyla Deneen  
Brandon, Barry Wayne  
Brant, Jeffery Allen  
Branum, Ella Danell  
Brasuell, Perry Clay  
Brasuell, Wallace Wade  
Bratcher(Morrow)Georgialen  
Bratcher, Jerri Lynn  
Bredesen(Banks)Stephanie L.  
Brennan, Aldo Ray  
Breshears(Luster)Irene C.  
Breshears, Trenton Paul  
Breuer, Alicia Ann  
Brewster, Larry Wayne  
Bridges, Elizabeth Ann  
Bridges, Jennifer Ann  
Bridges, Jerry Gene  
Bridges, Johnny Gene  
Bridges, Stephen Gene  
Bridges, Stephenie Ann  
Bright, Melinda (Mindy)  
Brinkley, Jacqueline  
Briscoe(Hamilton)Bobbine J.  
Britt, Cynda Louann  
Britt, Rachel Diane  
Britt (Tiger), Sherri Lane  
Brizendine(Miller)Barbara A.  
Brock, Terri Lynn  
Brockman, Mary Kathryn  
Broncho, Charles Martin  
Broncho, Shannon K.  
Brough, Donald Ray  
Brown, Alice  
Brown, Barbara Jane  
Brown (Boggs) Carissa D.  
Brown, Dane Ray  
Brown, David Dewayne  
Brown, Donise Lynette  
Brown, Franklin Eddie  
Brown, Fredrick Elliott  
Brown, Fredrick Lynn  
Brown, Glandora  
Brown, Glandora  
Brown Jr., James Dakeney  
Brown, Jeanetta Pauline  
Brown, Jennifer Anne  
Brown, Jerry Sage  
Brown, John Lyndall  
Brown Sr., Johnny M.  
Brown, Louis Joseph  
Brown, Marcus Jerome  
Brown,Martha Roseanna  
Brown, Mildred Mack  
Brown(Moore)Minnie Lucille  
Brown(Yahola) Pennie D.  
Brown, Randall Cordell  
Brown(Battiest)Rebecca E.  
Brown, Regina Ann  
Brown, Rhonda Jean  
Brown, Ronald Gene  
Brown, Roy  
Brown (Grayson) Sarah Ann  
Brown, Shannon Sue  
Brown, Steve Dakaney  
Brown, Teresa Sue  
Brown, Timothy Ray



Brown, William Robert  
Brownfield, Edna Mae  
Brownfield, Kelli Renn  
Brownfield, Oscar Jeffery  
Brownlow (Seymour) Paula J.  
Bruening, Leslie Earl  
Bumble, Edward Dean  
Brumley (Wingo) Debra Ann  
Bruner, Anita Kaye  
Bruner, Anthony Raul  
Bruner, Christopher Gene  
Bruner, Deborah Kaye  
Bruner, Douglas Rentie  
Bruner, Eugene Douglas  
Bruner, Jamalo Keon  
Bruner, James Edward  
Bruner, James Elliott  
Bruner, James Robert  
Bruner, Jennifer Christie  
Bruner Jr., Joe Bob  
Bruner, John Daniel  
Bruner, Judy Lois  
Bruner, Justin Solomon  
Bruner, Leslie Edward  
Bruner, Lewis  
Bruner (Coachman) Louisa L.  
Bruner, Merrilan Katherine  
Bruner, Nora Jane  
Bruner, Paul Ethan  
Bruner, Quinton Gerald  
Bruner, Randal Louis  
Bruner, Sonya Jean  
Bruner, Stephanie Jo  
Bruner, Tamara  
Bruner, Thomas Ray  
Bruner, Willis  
Bryant, Ronald Gene  
Bryden (French) Sherry A.  
Buchanan, Linda Kay  
Buchanan, Martha Ann  
Buchholz, Deborah Anita  
Buck, Alex  
Buck, Alice Eugenia  
Buck, Doreen  
Buck, Freda Sue  
Buck, John David  
Buck, Kevin Edward  
Buck, Korey Rayan  
Buck, Misty Dawn  
Buck, Stephanie Diane  
Buckaloo (Prettyman) Paula J  
Buckely (Henneha) Wanda L.  
Buckley Jr., Bill  
Buckley, Audrey  
Buckley, Bernice Aloma  
Buckley, Harry Linnell  
Buckley, Mary Ronnell  
Buckley, Sandra Lee  
Buckmaster II,Donnie Joe  
Buckner, Ace Hailey  
Bucktrot (Harjo) Anna Marie  
Bucktrot, Dwight Douglas  
Bucktrot, Lester Dale  
Buie (Wind), Ruth Ann  
Builer,(Escoe)Leona E.  
Buller, Matthew Alan  
Bullett, Jaymee Laur Rene  
Bunner (Wilson), Cherly B.  
Bunner, Dana Michele  
Bunner, Gary Michael  
Bunner, Marjorie June  
Bunner, Tracy Gayle  
Burchett, Lynette Jean  
Burden, Alicia Dawn  
Burgess, Amanda Jean  
Burgess, Helen Carol  
Burgess, Linden Phelix  
Burgess, Michael David  
Burgess, Nathaniel Ricardo  
Burgess, Nathaniel Vern  
Burgess, Randal Yale  
Burgess, Raymond Lee  
Burgess III, Senora Kenneth  
Burkhart, Amanda Leigh  
Burkhart (Robison) Lea Ana  
Burklin (Narcomey) Anna M.  
Burks, Ashley Diane  
Burks, Brandi Wyne  
Burks, Phyllis Ann  
Burleson, Dera Ann  
Burnett Jr., Guy  
Burns, Lawanda Gail  
Burns, Mekia Renee  
Burr, Kathi Jo  
Burris, Curtis William  
Burtnett, James Leon  
Burton, James Owen  
Bush (Fisher) Marilyn Glenda  
Bush, Robert Samuel  
Bushouse (Magee) Pamela J.  
Butler, Amanda Jo  
Butler, Christine  
Butler, Cory Wynn

Butler, Dorthea Lynn  
Butler, Janssen Keith  
Butler, Jerome Lynn  
Butler, Letha Marie  
Butler, Marie Lynn  
Butler, Matthew Ray  
Butler, Roley  
Byrd, Belinda LaLene  
Byrd(Berryhill), Gnetta F.  
Cable (Vail), Jo Ann  
Caesar, Alponso  
Cain (Plum) Tracia Anette  
Caldwell (Jackson) Jerra Gay  
Calhoun,Vera Elizabeth  
Calvert, Michael Todd  
Camp (Little) Bonita Jane  
Camp, Kenneth Lee  
Campbell (Cobb), Aleece A.  
Campbell, Clay Ian  
Campbell, Ian McCullum  
Campbell, Monty Lee  
Canada, Howard Brian  
Canady, Evelyn Louise  
Canard, Daryl Jeffrey  
Canard, David Paul  
Canard, Roger Vernon  
Cantrell, Zeddie Lee  
Carbitcher, Jimpsey  
Carey, John Christopher  
Cargill (Bell) Marissa Roberta  
Carman, Mitzi Erin  
Carman (Wesley), Tonya Jo  
Carmona, Lorraine Mildred  
Carnell, Jimmy Dell  
Carnell, Mary Katherine  
Carpenter (Ross), Joanne  
Carpenter, Vicki Jo  
Carr, George William  
Carroll (West) Stacie Paulette  
Carson, Dana Wesley  
Carter, Brenda Lee  
Carter, Jody Talon  
Carter (Armstrong) Michelle  
Carter, Richard Lee  
Carter, Ronda Sue  
Carter, Tina Deann  
Carter, William Brian  
Case Jr., Jack  
Casey, Leonard Wayne  
Casey, Pat Rockne  
Casey, Patricia Ann  
Casey, Virenda Lee  
Castor, Terry Gwenn  
Castro, Larry Demetrio  
Cates Sr., William Lloyd  
Cathcart, Kathleen  
Catland (Archer) Barbara J.  
Caudill, Peter Ian  
Cavin, Melissa Colene  
Caywood, Jason patrick  
Ceasar, Michelle  
Chalakee Jr., Billy Webster  
Chalakee Jr, James Monroe  
Chalakee, Marjorie Ann  
Chalakee, Theron Layne  
Chamberlain, Marion Pat  
Chambers, Jefferson Ross  
Chandler (Cooper), Linda P.  
Chandler, Jimmy Lynn  
Chaney, Jackson Steal John  
Chapman, Crystal Ann  
Chapman, Leona  
Charboneau, Hettie Louise  
Charles, Johnny Cherone  
Chase, Walton Cole  
Chastain, Christopher Jay  
Chastain, Jason Allen  
Chastain, Michelle Nicole  
Chastain, Pamela Sue  
Chastain, Shelton J.  
Chavez, Angela Joanne  
Chavez, John Freeman  
Checotah, Roman  
Checotah, Wilbertine  
Checote, Sky Chebon  
Cheek, Darin Wesley  
Cheek, Dawn Anne  
Cheek, Perry  
Cherry, Leann Olivia  
Childers, Daniel Christopher  
Childers, Edward Lee  
Childers, James Lee  
Childers, Jessie Dean  
Childers, Joanna Lee  
Childers, Kristen Jean  
Childers, Marchie Joe  
Childers, Mark Steven  
Childress, Annette Carol  
Childress, Michael Raymond  
Chiles, Donald R.  
Chiles, Makesha Danyelle  
Chiles, Nancy Louise  
Chisholm, Arnold David

Chisholm, Linda Kay  
Chisholm, Nancy Unanghy  
Chisholm Jr., Samuel Joseph  
Chisler (Clinton) Patricia K.  
Chissoe, Aaron Douglas  
Chissoe, Michele Marie  
Chissoe, Paul Eugene  
Chissoe, Sam Junior  
Choate, Nerissa Jean  
Chotkey (Jimboy), Louisa  
Chouteau, Lavon  
Christiansen, Patrick Louis  
Christy (Bethel), Linda Marie  
Christy, Judy Marie  
Chupco, James Leroy  
Chupco, Johnny Ray  
Chupco, Sammy Don  
Cindle, Randy Allen  
Cindle, Velma Ruth  
Clark, Christy Dianne  
Clark, Michael Allen  
Clark, Peggy  
Clark, Penny Joanne  
Clark, Sandy Joniece  
Clark (Hardin), Roxanne  
Clark, Sheril Ann  
Clark (Fisher), Tamara Sue  
Clayton, Kevin Elmer  
Clayton, Ronald Jay  
Cleary (Logan), Regina  
Clemmer (Foster), Elizabeth  
Clendening, Billy Gene  
Clester (Mannon), Linda L.  
Clifton (Baughn) Debra Kay  
Clifton (Braun), Dianna L.  
Cline, Joel Cotton  
Cline (Crawford), Shirley A.  
Clinton, Cuba Mae  
Clinton, Gary Glen  
Clinton Jr., Woodrow Wilson  
Cloud, Benny Dude  
Cloud, Clinton Lew  
Cloud, Galen Charles  
Cloud, Latisha Renee  
Cloud, Lucy Mae  
Cloud, Mark David  
Cloud, Mark Stanley  
Coachman, Amy Larissa  
Coachman, Agnes  
Coachman, David James  
Coachman, Joseph Don  
Coachman, Kathleen  
Coates, Dennis Lamonte  
Coatney (Davidson), Lana C.  
Cobb, Joan Kay  
Cobb, Youvon Linell  
Coburn Jr., Charles David  
Coburn, Kimberly Kay  
Cochran (Cole), Brenda Kay  
Cochrane, Elizabeth G.  
Cockrum (Leach), Kathleen L.  
Cody (Rose), Jenny Lee  
Coffin (Brooks), Lolita  
Coffman (Sanger), Karen R.  
Coker Jr., Thomas Edward  
Colbert, Alecia Dianne  
Colbert, Gary Lee  
Colbert, James Rudolph  
Colbert, Kenneth Dale  
Colbert, Lucille  
Colbert, Phyllis Jean  
Colbert, Queenie Sue  
Cole (Rundell), Bobbie  
Cole, Felicia Ann  
Cole, Heather Lynn  
Cole, Jamie Lee  
Cole, Ray William  
Cole, Theresa Liegh  
Coleman (Johnson), Betty D.  
Coleman, Jacquelyn Fae  
Coleman (Cornell), Manie M.  
Collins, Phyllis Maudean  
Combs, Doreen Levern  
Combs, Melvin Lewis  
Condry, Elizabeth Irene  
Conley, Mary Ellen  
Conrad, Millicent Wahkola  
Cook, Evelyn  
Cook, Jessica Lynn  
Cook, Mark Alan  
Cook, Michael Glenn  
Cook, Scot David D.  
Coon, Louise  
Coon, Sasha Lea  
Cooper, Cranford Wayne  
Cooper, Henry Glen  
Cooper, James Emmett C.  
Cooper, Joel Edward  
Cooper, Lyndel Lin  
Cooper, Matthew Daniel  
Cooper, Rebekah Ashton  
Cooper, Robin Renea  
Coots, Mark Anthony

Copeland, Cleo  
Copeland (Newberry), Lisa  
Corgan III, John Marshall  
Cotton, Lucy Diane  
Cottrell (Burnett), Cindy Lea  
Couch, Jack Cody  
Coulter (Baccus) Kathy D.  
Counterman, Joseph Steve  
Courtemanche, Deborah S.  
Covey, Leonard Archie  
Covey, Linda Sue  
Covey, Louis Archie  
Cowan, Robert Lee  
Cowles Jr, Jerry Don  
Cowles, Jimmy Wayne  
Cox, Jerry Edward  
Cox, Laura Sue  
Cox, Winnie Jo  
Coyle, Bobby Lynn  
Coyle, Randy Alan  
Crabtree Jr., James Cecil  
Craig, Hope Shnees  
Craig, Stanley Edwin  
Craig, Toni Latrease  
Crain, Ambia Lea  
Cravatt, Leona  
Crawels, Mary Lou  
Crawford (Collins) Linda C.  
Crawford, Geraldine  
Crawford, Kathryn Louise  
Crawford, Scotty Shane  
Crawley, Wendell Allen  
Crenshaw, Jackie Duane  
Cricklin, David Ricky  
Cries for Ribs(Cooper)Kendra  
Critzter (Wenner) Mikela Kay  
Cron (Sherlock) Teresa Marie  
Crook, Clyde William  
Crook, Danetta Ann  
Crook, Mary Ann  
Crook, Patricia  
Crosby, Shonna Elizabeth  
Crounse (Phipps) Jacqueline  
Crowell, Amanda Rebecca  
Crowell, Marquette Murphy  
Crowell, Thomas James  
Crowell-Borromeo, Deana P.  
Crowels, David Paul  
Crowels, Sheresa Lynn  
Cruce, Alan Lee  
Crumley, Wanda Ruth  
Cruse (Berryhill) Carrie E.  
Cruz, Cynthia Ann  
Culley, Angela Carissa  
Culley, Jeffrey Wallace  
Culley, Pamela Diane  
Culley(Kelly)Shannon Michell  
Culley, Tarsha Renea  
Cully (Fixico), Anna Lee  
Cunningham, Terri Yvonne  
Cummings, Joshua David  
Cummings, Linda  
Cummings, Matthew Todd  
Cummings, Robert Lee  
Cummings, Thomas Richard  
Cummins, Betty Lou  
Cunningham, Celease K.  
Cunningham, Leroy  
Curry Jerone H.  
Curry, Ostennia Mae  
Curry, Patricia Lynn  
Curtis, John Lowel  
Curtis (Richard), Wanda  
Dabbs, Robert Todd  
Dailey, Christopher Allen  
Dailey, Lisa Gayle  
Dale, Codi Jo  
Dale, Edmond Lee  
Dallas (Lowe), Connie Lynn  
Dan, Andrea Renee  
Dan, Darla Jean  
Dan, Jacquelyn Marie  
Dan, Jessica Lonelia  
Dan, Michael Lovis  
Dan, Nora Jean  
Dan, Raymond  
Dan, Raymond William  
Daniel Jr., Norman Eugene  
Daniels, Debra Louise  
Daniels, Lance Sequoyah  
Daniels, Marsha Mae  
Danker, Jodi Lea  
Davidson(Williams)Oneawa K  
Davis, Anthony Paul  
Davis, Billy  
Davis, Bobby  
Davis, Carolyn  
Davis, Cheryl Lynn  
Davis, Christopher Lee  
Davis, Courtney Lamar  
Davis, Dale Spencer  
Davis, Don Juan  
Davis (Chotkey), Estelen

Davis, Glenn Marshall  
Davis, Hugh Nolan  
Davis, Jeffery Heath  
Davis, Judeth Ann  
Davis, Lenisa Kay  
Davis, Linda Faye  
Davis, Marcellino James  
Davis, Mario Enrico  
Davis, Martha Kathryn  
Davis (McNac), Mary M.  
Davis, Mella Marie  
Davis, Michele Janene  
Davis, Nancy Sue  
Davis, Nicole Rachelle  
Davis, Pamela Kay  
Davis (Akers) Patricia Lynn  
Davis, Ramona Jean  
Davis, Ramona Jean  
Davis, Robert Jeffery  
Davis, Roy Lee  
Davis, Sandra Ann  
Davis, Sharon Janell  
Davis, Sonya Gay  
Davis, Stanley Jerome  
Davis, Steven Patrick  
Davis, Tommy Gene  
Davison, Larry James  
Davison, Ronald Gene  
Dawson (Deere) Mancio  
Day (Harjo), Ora Mae  
Dean, Rebecca Irene  
Dean, Richard Vernon  
Dear, Wendy Renee  
Deaver (Myers), Sarah Jean  
Deckard, Lena Sue  
Deeks, Lucy Colette  
Deems, Lisa Ann  
Deer, Lillian  
Deere, Alene Leslie  
Deere, Charlene Gayle  
Deere, Dana Michelle  
Deere, Edward Jo  
Deere, Enid Lynne  
Deere, Jimmy Ray  
Deere, Kerry Anne  
Deere, Leslie Ranelle  
Deere, Louise  
Deere, Twanna Sue  
Deere, Wilson  
Deeringwater, Angela Betty J  
Deeringwater, Shawn David  
Deerinwater, Lee Ann  
Deerinwater, Lisa Ann  
Delancey, Brenda Sue  
Demmitt, Danny Monroe  
Demry, Lacy Deon  
Dennis (McCosar), Beverly S.  
Denton, Bobbie Jean  
Denton, Danny Dwight  
Deo, Daniel Nokose Hytke  
Deo, Serena Kay  
Deo, Wallace  
Deroin (Battles), Debra Carol  
Determan (Skaggs), Freda  
Devine, Cecil Erick  
Devine, Curtis Martin  
Devine, Dorothy Jean  
Devine, J. C.  
Devine, James Dennis  
Diamond (Lane), Tracy Yvette  
Dice, Julia Ann  
Dickerson Sr., Roosevelt S.  
Dickey (Fleet) Alice Josephine  
Diehl, Daniel Scott  
Digranes (Autry), Jo Lynn  
Dillard, Kristin Renee  
Dillsaver, Leah Marie  
Dinwiddie II, Granger  
Dixon, Bernadine Lynn  
Dixon, Gregory Ben  
Dobbs (Alexander), Connie Jo  
Dobbs, Willie Tecumseh  
Dobson, Leah Alicia  
Dobson, Mikel Lee  
Dodge (Wilbanks) Charlotte  
Dodson, Rachel DeAnn  
Dodson, Vaness Dawn  
Doering (Canard), Linda Ann  
Doker, Roni Lynn  
Dorsey, Daniel Tommy  
Dorsey, Gary Neil  
Doss (Sarty), Carol Jean  
Doss, Douglas Stevens  
Doss, Reginald Keith  
Doss, Samson Wayne  
Doss, Trae Jame  
Douglas, Bruce Wayne  
Douglas Jr., Raymond Ralph  
Douglass, David James  
Dover, Christina Kay  
Dover, Linda Lou  
Dowdy, Jeremy  
Dowling, Margaret Louise



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Dowling, Thomas William	Evans, Mark Edward	Folsum, Thresa Ann	Garris(Davis), Pamela Jean	Greenwood, Heather K.
Dowling, Willian Thomas	Evans, Stephanie Michele	Forbes(Johnson)Carolyn Lynn	Garrison (Anglen), Ruth	Greenwood, Jerry
Downing (Bear), Jacqueline	Evans, Tommy Lee	Ford, David Roger	Gassaway, Sheila Ann	Greenwood, Nona Lue
Downum, Vachel Von	Factor, Felicia Arlene	Ford, Deborah Sue	Gaston, Oliver Don	Gregory, Brooke Leigh
Doyle, Annalis	Factor, Latrica Renea	Ford, Denise Ann	Gaston, Walter Prentis	Grice (Edwards), Bettie
Doyle, Jeffrey	Factor (Scott), Lydia	Ford, Tara Dawn	Gatzman Jr., Douglas Bailey	Grice, Kathlene
Doyle, Kimberly Lynn	Factor, Nancy Jean	Foreman(Hill), Katherine L.	Gatzman, Tanya Lea	Griffin(Hodges)Kristina Paige
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Dozier, Juanita	Factor, Patrick Ryan	Forsythe (Tiger), Ellen Kae	Gee, Carmen Kay	Griffin, Sandra Lynn
Dozier, Rebecca Dee	Factor, Reuben	Foster, Brian Scott	Gentry, Joseph E.	Griffith, Sharon Kay
Drake Jr., Ivan	Factor, Stephen Walter	Foster, Charles Arthur	Gentry, Michael Lawrence	Griffith, Tony Dee
Drew, Frank Mitchell	Fairchilds, Kenneth Jeremy	Foster, Daniel	George, Addie Faye	Griggs, James R.
Drew, Georgiana	Faris (Madrid) Jaime Marie	Foster, David Ray	George, Gene Edward	Grimes(Herrod), Katie L.
Drew, Joseph	Farnsworth, Kathy Sue	Foster, Dawn Ranee	Geralis (Powell), Marsha L.	Grimes, Linda Carol
Drew, Veronica Barnett	Farrow Jr., Byrd Edward	Foster (Chouteau) Deanne M	Geren(Lansford)Katherine C.	Grimes, Sonja Renee
Drew, Wynema Ruth	Farrow, Marty Ray	Foster, Dorothea E.	Germain, Todd Dane	Grissom, Amber Denise
Drew, Yvonne Ahniwake	Feathers, Stanley Edward	Foster, Gary Leonard	Gibson(Freeman)Pamela Kay	Grissom, Delilah Denise
Driver Jr., Mahlon Kennis	Feeling, Stella Faye	Foster, Georgia Jenise	Gibson, Albert Austin	Grissom, Dorotha Lorine
Drotos (Taylor)Jennifer Ann	Felix, David Gerald	Foster, Jon Erik	Gibson, Bonnie Evelyn	Grissom, Jessica Danielle
Drywater, Jason Lee	Felix, Donna Elaine	Foster(Grayson) Little Cherry	Gibson, Jimmy Roy	Grrom, Eric Crandell
Duke, Nancy Louise	Felix, Garry Lee	Foster, Walter Edwin	Gibson, Mary J.	Grundy(Shannon)Pamela R.
Dunbar, Lila Champaigne	Feliz, Richard Dale	Fowler(Freeman)Courtney M	Gibson, Nina Esther	Guess, Michael Lynn
Duncan, Donald	Felling, Mary Nell	Fox, Bettie Jo	Gibson, Sherrie Lousie	Guevara, Kim Yvonne
Duncan, Leah Desiree	Ferguson, Carrie Lynn	Fox, Bradley Joe	Gibson, Kimberly Sue	Guevara, Mary Ann
Duncan, Ronald Dean	Fetterly, Christie Ann	Fox, Marcy Lynn	Gideon, Michael Glen	Guild(Stockton), Virginia Ann
Dunegan, Twala Dean	Fields, Angela Renea	Fox, Martha Louise	Gilbert, Elvin Harlen	Guinn Jr., Caspal Lawrence
Dunford Jr., Philip Don	Fields, Billy Daniel	Fox, Stephan	Giles Jr., Thomas Edward	Guthrie Jr., Gary Bruce
Dunham(McCallum)Bessie L.	Fields, Billy Woodrow	Foy, Travis Elroy	Giles, Deana Paulette	Gutierrez(Allen), Marcella L.
Dunham, Fred Ray	Fields Jr., Fleshman	Frailey, Marcus Gene	Gilliam, Constance Daye	Gutierrez, Clark Cameron
Dunivant, Terri Daneen	Fields, James	Frair, Joseph Donover	Gillispie (Daniel), Barbara J.	Guynes, Camellia Renee
Dunker (Leeder), Sherry Lynn	Fields, James Allen	Franchek (Summers), Cynthia	Gillman, Lonnie Michael	Haddox, Deborah Denise
Dunlap, Marilyn Louise	Fields, Lola	Francis, Debbie Ann	Gilmore (Harjo), Rhayma K.	Haddox, Kevin James
Dunn Jr., Delbert Thomas	Fields, Teddy Randolph	Francis, Dewey	Gilroy, Joseph Ray	Hagie, Shelia Kay
Dunn, Donna Jo	Fields, Tony Lynn	Francis, Frederick Jeremy	Gilstrap, Katherine Iying	Haikey, Ellis Riley
Dunn, Geraldine Marie	Fields, Tyra Dawn	Francis, Hannah Elizabeth	Girod, Johnna Michelle	Haikey, Larry David
Dunn, Jimmie Carol	Finch, Jerry Allan	Francis Jr., Jeff William	Gisler (Oliver), Dee Anna	Haikey, Nathan Paul
Dunn, Marvin Dornell	Fish Jr., Charlie Curtis	Francis, Josephine	Gist, Gloria Gwendon	Hain, Richard Todd
Dunn Jr., Otis Allen	Fish, Cindy Lynne	Francis, Mark	Givens, Devan Renne	Hale (Lunsford), Debbie Sue
Dunn, Vanis Eugene	Fish, Dale Frazier	Francis, Raymond Dion	Givens, Donald Ray	Hale (Merrell), Merci Lee
Dunning (McGirt), Betty Lou	Fish, Donna Denise	Francis, Robert Lee	Givens, Gabriel	Hale, Heather Lee
Dunson, Anthony Lynn	Fish, Jamie Carol	Francis, Rollie Mark	Givens, Melody Misty	Hale, Cecil Kyle
Dunson, Gary	Fish, Jeremy Duane	Francis, Terry Lee	Givens, Sonny James	Hale, David Robert
Dunson, Geraldine Kay	Fish Jr., John B.	Francis, Victor Tony	Givens, William Lee	Hale, James Donald
Dunson Jr., Michael Lynn	Fish, Linda Lou	Francis, Wesly Lee	Gladden, Jason Michael	Haley, Gladys Nadine
Durante, Sherita Ann	Fish Jr., Louis Melford	Frank, Gail Ann	Glasco (Martin), Tonya D.	Haley, Jeanetta Sue
Durfee (Grayson), Kelly L.	Fish, Lucinda Lynn	Franklin, Doby Sean	Glasgow, Doris Marie	Haley, Tracy Lyn
Durham, Jessie Marie	Fish, Sonny James	Franks, Patricia Ann	Glass, Steven Jonas	Hall (Brinkley), Mary Ruth
Durniak (Moore), Sharon	Fish, Steven Wayne	Fraser, Diane Marie	Glover, Lois Marie	Hall (Harry), Arvie Elizabeth
Durossette, Robert David	Fish, Sylvia	Fraser, Gail Ann	Gobin, Tanya Sue	Hall, Gordon Gale
Duvall, Darin Lee	Fish, Teresa Patricia	Frazer, Clayton Mont	Goddard (East), Mary E.	Hall, Mary Ann
Dyer, Cameron Ray	Fish, Terrel Darnell	Frazier (Archer), Debra Kaye	Goff (Morris), Sandra Kay	Hall, Pamela Sue
Dyer (Steven), Mollie Ann	Fisher, Brenda Joyce	Frazier (Billie), Betty R.	Goins, Jason Alan	Hall, Shirley Ann
Dyer, Ronald Russell	Fisher, Cecil Conrad	Frazier, Barbara Loraine	Goke, Christopher J.	Hallford, Lawrence
Eakes, Vincent Ray	Fisher, Holly Ann	Fream, Edward Lewis	Golden, Joshua Eugene	Hallum, Brian Ray
Earnest (Jerrigan), Tammy	Fisher, Jeffery Howard	Fream, Kim Kimbrow	Golightly, Kenneth Wayne	Hamblet, Frank Harold
Easley (Self), Evelyn Ann	Fisher, John Nathan	Freeman II, Jack Landrum	Gomez, Bernard Angel	Hamby (Boswell), Norma K.
Eastep, Tommy Lee	Fisher, John Travis	Freeman Jr., Charles Franklin	Gooden, Dennis Arthur	Hamilton, Ladonna
Ebahotubbi(Daney)Michelle	Fisher, Johnnny Bill	Freeman, Aubrey Dale	Gooden, Eddie	Hammar Jr., Michael Gene
Echohawk, Cissy Annette	Fisher, Kenneth Lawrence	Freeman, Betty Jane	Gooden, Jolene Yvonne	Hammar, Jeffrey David
Edmerson, Annie Mae	Fisher, Kenneth Sam	Freeman, Donald Ethan	Goodman (Kelley), Brenda J	Hammar, Michael Gene
Edminsten, Maruice	Fisher Jr., Lawrence Harvey	Freeman, Janet Darlene	Goodvoice, Timothy	Hammer(Dunford), Leigh Ann
Edmiston (Shirley), Nelly Sue	Fisher, Ritchie Dewayne	Freeman, Leola	Goodwin, Dodi Denise	Hammer-Vega, Kari Michelle
Edmundson Sr., Jimmy Lee	Fisher, Tommy Dale	Freeman, Ronald Gene	Goodwin, Julie Darlene	Hammon Jr., Bobby Louis
Edmundson, Eddie V.	Fisher, Wynona Jean	Freeman, Scott Emerson	Gordon, John Harold	Hammond, Victoria Linette
Edwards, Cherly Denise	Fitch (Tiger), Barbara Sue	Freeman, Trina Nichole	Gossett (Spitz), Carolyn Jane	Hancock, Ronnie Lee
Edwards, Delbert Donald	Fitzer, Trula May	Freeman, William Evertt	Goudeau, Adrienne Renee	Hanen (Schafer), Victoria E.
Edwards, Jennifer Louise B.	Fitzgerald, Ronnie Joe	French, Alix Gerald	Goudeau, Jurlden	Haney, Roberta Jo
Edwards, Joe Robert	Fixico, Anthony Glen	French, Brandon Kane	Goudeau, Tyrone	Hanley, Regina Lynn
Edwards, June Ray	Fixico, Antonia	French, Gara Lynn	Gouge, Charles Allen	Hanna, Deanne Lou
Edwards, (Smith), Kathy L.	Fixico, Bessie	French, Tina Sue	Gouge, Helen Louise	Hansen (McIntosh), Janet G
Edwards, Mary Frances	Fixico, Carolyn Denise	Frenchman, Senoria Lon	Gouge, Melinda Jennifer	Hanshaw, Frederick Jackson
Edwards Jr., Richard Wayne	Fixico, Curtis Junior	Fritz, Darren Allen	Gouge, William	Harback, Frank Dean
Eldridge (Sullenger) Sherry E.	Fixico, Della Louise	Frogge Jr., Ray Byron	Gould, Rufus Dave	Hardin, David Ray
Elliott, Joseph Boyd	Fixico, Jimmy Dale	Fruitt (Scott)Bernadette S.	Gourd, Helen Marie	Hardin, Gary Wayne
Elliott(Yahola)Sallye Elizabeth	Fixico, Kenneth Lee	Fry, Roley	Gowdy, Cathey Ann	Hardin, Ronald Coleman
Ellis (Graham), Debra Ann	Fixico, Leah Rae	Frye, Bobby Wayne	Grace (Larney), Monica M.	Hardin, Ruby Ladonna
Ellis, Anita	Fixico, Lillian Vernan	Frye II, Ed Porter	Graham (Foster) Kimberly S.	Harding, Eddie Ray
Ellis, Susan Deann	Fixico, Lou Jean	Frye, James Wallace	Graham, Sonny	Hardison, Marilyn Marie
Ellsworth (Benson), Kristin G.	Fixico, Martha Ann	Frye, Janice	Grammar, Ronald Roy	Hardridge, Jack Grover
Ellsworth (Smith), Stephani	Fixico, Myron Clair	Frye, Johnny	Grammar, Roy	Hare, Karie Ann
Emerson (Powell) Shirley F.	Fixico, Quinton Lee	Frye Jr., Johnny	Grammar, Wessie	Harjo, Betty Louise
Emerson, Noel Webster	Fixico, Rebecca Lynn	Frye Jr., Sam	Grant (Berryhill), Margaret J.	Harjo, Agnes Lynn
Emerson, Stephen Glenn	Fixico, Richard Dean	Frye, Samuel Emarthle	Grant, Dilleard Robert	Harjo, Albert Lee
Emrich (Thomasson)Deborah	Fixico, Robert Lee	Frye, William	Grant, Rena Mae	Harjo, Andrew
England, Sandra Lynn	Fixico Jr., Robert	Fryer(Brooks), Janet Kay	Gravitt, Jack Wesley	Harjo, Angelia Renee
Enkey, David Wayne	Fixico, Steven	Fuenjtes, Phyllis Jean	Gray, Carrie Christine	Harjo, Bill Sonny
Ennis (Couch), Patricia	Fixico, Taylor	Fultz, Carolyn Sue	Gray, Esther Rae	Harjo, Brandon Duane
Ennis, Ewelene Evette	Fixico, Tracey	Fulwider, David Van	Gray, Robert Luther	Harjo, Brandon Michael
Enriquez (Long), Betty G.	Fleetwood, Roscoe Earnest	Funchess, Edward	Gray, Walter Eugene	Harjo, Bruce Allen
Epperley, Linda Ann	Fleetwood, Timothy Wayne	Furr (Bruner), Claudette S.	Grayson Jr., Curtis Warren	Harjo, Charles Wallace
Epperson, Abbie Lousie	Fletcher, Bonny Jean	Furr, Robert Benjamin	Grayson, Barnabas Henry	Harjo, Cheparney
Epperson, Gary Nelson	Fletcher, Carl Rex	Gable (Steed), Mattie L.	Grayson, Bryan Timothy	Harjo, Corrine Clara
Erickson, Deborah Elizabeth	Fletcher, Dorothy Rachelle	Gable (Wesley), Susie Anne	Grayson, Cary Charles	Harjo, Cynthia Louise
Ervin, Louella Ann	Flory (Huckably), Hazel P.	Gable Jr., James Curtis	Grayson, Doris Ann	Harjo, Daniel Ray
Erwin, Helen	Floyd, Lisa Ann	Gabler, Darrell Wayne	Grayson, Nancy Leanna	Harjo, David Lee
Erwin, Pamela Yvonne	Floyd, Phillip David	Gains Jr., Melvin Eugene	Grayson, Nathaniel Lee	Harjo, Denise Lynn
Escoe, Joella	Fogel (Evans), Savannah Lee	Gambler Jr., Richard	Green, Ella Mae	Harjo, Donna Sue
Eshleman (Stengel), Tracy L.	Foley (Johnson), Sandra Jane	Gambler, Roxanne	Green, Janet Lee	Harjo, Eddie John
Eslick, Joseph Neal	Foley, Brian Lee	Gann, Kara Janel	Green, Joseph Gene	Harjo, Edward Lee
Espinoza, Sherry Lynn	Foley, Carla Denise	Garcia (Young), Deborah V.	Green, Kenneth Dale	Harjo Jr., Elmer



Muscogee Nation News - C4 ELECTION BOARD				
Harjo Jr., Elmer Lee	Hawkins, Lashonda Rochell	Hitchcock, Nancy Lynn	Hunter (Chase), Karen Joyce	Johnson, Karen Michelle
Harjo, Erika Beth	Hawkins, Leta Suzann	Hixson (Butler), Karen M.	Hunter Jr., Frank John	Johnson, Kenneth
Harjo, Estelline	Hawkins, McNeil Everett	Hoard (Porterfield), Stacie	Hunter, John Howard Hunter-	Johnson, Kevin Scott
Harjo, Floyd Wayne	Hawkins, Nellie	Hobbs (Scantlen), Leann	Law, Michele Diane	Johnson, Kimberly Ann
Harjo, Geoffory James	Hawkins, William Dan	Hobbs, Stephanie	Hurd, Gwendolyn Ann	Johnson, Larry Darnell
Harjo, Geraldine Francis	Hayes (Burgess), Lisa Ann	Hobia, Charles Ricky	Hurd, Terry Joe	Johnson, Lee Otis
Harjo, Harry Joe	Hayes, David Henry	Hobia, Crystal Rebecca	Hurn, Leticia Victoria	Johnson Jr., Lee Otis
Harjo, Herman Perry	Hayes, Wakota	Hobia, Fannie Ann	Hurt, Aaron Christopher	Johnson III, Little Tommy
Harjo, Jack Lee	Haynes, Lewis Thomas	Hobia, Kelly Sue	Hurt, Anglea Christine	Johnson, Loda Joy
Harjo, Jacob	Haynes, Paul David	Hodgden, Jennifer Joyce	Hyslop, Peggy Ann	Johnson(Roberts)Lucinda W.
Harjo, James Wesley	Haynes, Richard Thomas	Hodge, Floyd Wayne	Ickes (Tiger), Shonna Maru	Johnson, Marvin Ray
Harjo, Jerry Lee	Haynes, Vernon Haskell	Hodge, Jerry Wade	Inderlied (Tarvin), Karen E.	Johnson, Mary Blenda
Harjo, Jimmy Lee	Hays, Carla Jo	Hodge, Jesse William	Indian, Evangelina Athlethia	Johnson, Mary Lou
Harjo, Joseph Leon	Heard, Rocky Lane	Hodge, Joshua Lee	Ingram, Dana Leigh	Johnson Sr., Michael Angeol
Harjo, Joshua Amos	Heater (Ross), Peggy Lynne	Hodge, Kelly Denise	Ingram, Elizabeth Ellen	Johnson Jr., Rodney Martin
Harjo, Justin Wade	Heavener(Thornburg)Sharee	Hodge, Richard Raymond	Ingram, Warren Todd	Johnson, Ron Gregory
Harjo, Kassey Lynn	Hefner, Lisa Gail	Hoffman (Sevier), Judy Irene	Inks, Mary Ann	Johnson, Ruby Lee
Harjo, Kevin Jon	Hefner, Mary Ann	Hoffman (Wheeler), Loretta F	Irish (Nelson), Linda Kay	Johnson, Shirley Ann
Harjo, Lawrence Dean	Hefner, Steven Glenn	Hoffpauir, Robert Tyler	Isaac, Michael Allen	Johnson, Solomon Lee
Harjo, LeVine	Heinbach (Tompkins), Susan	Hofstrom, Cindy Sue	Ishmael (Bunny), Maxine	Johnson, Stand Watie
Harjo, Lois Jean	Helmer, Jo Adrian	Holata, Jamie Ernestine	Ishmael, John Lee	Johnson, Thomas Lee
Harjo (Bullett), Loretta S.	Hemphill, Pauline	Holata, John Topley	Ishmael, John Matthew	Johnson Sr., Tony
Harjo, Mahaley Joan	Henderson, William Virgil	Holcomb, Mary Ann	Ishmael, Joshua Lee	Johnson, Twana Janella
Harjo, Marcus Lewis	Hendrix (Harvey), Janice	Hold, Terry Lewis	Ivey, Kathleen S.	Johnston (Jones), Tina S
Harjo, Mark Lee	Heneha, Angelita Sue	Holder, Ann Florene	Jack Jr., Everett Lee	Johnston, Amy Dawn
Harjo, Mary Ann	Heneha, Mary Jean	Holdridge, Brandon Shayne	Jack, Jimmie	Jones Jr., Adam
Harjo, Michael Lee	Heneha, Norman Jason	Holdridge, Hayley Brooke	Jack, Mitch Allen	Jones Jr., Jesse Allen
Harjo, Morris	Hengst-Harris, Juanita	Holladay, Robert Douglas	Jack, Noel	Jones, Alysia Marie
Harjo, Pahos Paul B.	Henneha, Laura Beth	Holland(Apoika)Marjorie R.	Jack, Richard Loyd	Jones, Anne Evans
Harjo, Patsy Clara	Henry, Connie Rene	Holland, Terri Sue	Jacks (Blagg), Donna Sue	Jones, Bobby Ray
Harjo, Polly Ann	Henry, Johnie William	Holleman, Cassandra Joe	Jackson, Antonio	Jones, Bonnie Lynn
Harjo, Rhonda Dene	Henry, Sharon Kaye	Holler, Regina Leigh	Jackson, Bernard William	Jones, Brian Daniel
Harjo, Robbin Scott	Henry, Stephen Gregory	Hollestelle, James Daniel	Jackson (Hughes), Betty Sue	Jones, Charles Allen
Harjo, Robert Michael	Henry, Tiffany Ann	Holleyman, Henry Michael	Jackson, Cheryl Sue	Jones, Christopher Graig
Harjo, Roy Dean	Hensley(Checotah), Charlene	Holloway III, Samuel Jess	Jackson Jr., Clifford Odean	Jones, Cindy Lou
Harjo, Ryan Bradley	Hensley, Tony Michael	Holloway JR., Samuel Jess	Jackson, Della Marie	Jones, Daleen Kay
Harjo, Scotty Gene	Herbert (Quick)Jenea L.	Holman, Maggie Wyvann	Jackson, Edwin Melford	Jones, Danny Joe
Harjo, Sheila Lynn	Hernandez, Carlos Ray	Holmes, Dennis	Jackson, Heather Michele	Jones, Darrell Ray
Harjo, Shirley Ann	Hernandez, Liza Jane	Holmes, Donnie Ray	Jackson, Janet Marie	Jones, Dixie Kay
Harjo, Stanley Lee	Herring (Polk), Juliana Lyn	Holmes, Jackie Sue	Jackson, Jeffrey Jon	Jones, Ed Alvin
Harjo, Ted Wayne	Herrod (Coachman)Camille A	Holmes, Raymond	Jackson, Jennifer Lynn	Jones, Edward Donnell
Harjo, Terry Lynn	Herrod, Frances Ann	Holmes (Jones), Rebecca	Jackson, Jimmie Otis	Jones, Gary Laverne
Harjo, Thomas lee	Herrod, Johnathan	Holmes, Ricky	Jackson, Karen Rachell	Jones, Jack David
Harjo, Thomas Leslie	Herrod, Lanny Chris	Holmes(Musgrove) Shirley A	Jackson, Kelley Ray	Jones, Jackie Ray
Harjo, Timmy	Herrod, Paula Sue	Holt (Dice), Hazel Marie	Jackson, Lora Ann	Jones, Jameel Riley
Harjo, Tommy Lee	Herron, Thresa	Holt, Robert Lunn	Jackson, Michael Marcos	Jones, Jessica DeAnna
Harjo, Vicki Lynn	Hess, Alice Gay	Holuby, Monty Joe	Jackson, Phillip David	Jones, Johnny Eugene
Harjo, Vincent Lee	Hess, David Eric	Holuby, Peggy Ann	Jackson Jr., Phillip David	Jones (Toler) Kelli Jolleen
Harjo, Wiley William	Hester, Robert Joe	Hood, Barry Keith	Jackson, Raymond	Jones, Kenneth Russell
Harjo Jr., Warren Eugene	Hetherington, Marcus Allen	Hood, Rachel Nicole	Jackson (Lee), Rhonda Carole	Jones, Lacy Elizabeth
Harjo, Willis Wayne	Hetherington, Mary Ann	Hooper, Anita Jean	Jackson, Shannon Renee	Jones, Lin Wallace
Harjo, Wilson Scott	Heytz, Fankie Eugene	Hopgood (Long), Adrienne	Jackson, Shelly Lynn	Jones, Loper
Harjochee, Abbie Mae	Hicks (Wright), Shelia	Hopkins, Vickie Louise	Jackson (Screffler), Shirley	Jones, Natasha Dawn
Harjochee, Frankie Dean	Hicks Jr., Lloyd	Hopper (Webb), Carla Elaine	Jackson, Timothy Andrew	Jones (Sutton), Oquilla Louise
Harjochee, Michael Adam	Hicks Jr., Terry Jesse	Hopwood, James Howard	Jacobs, Alane	Jones, Patrick Wayne
Harkrider, Timothy Sean	Hicks, Brandon Joe	Hopwood, Howard	Jacobs, Christopher	Jones, Roxanne Lynn
Harlan, Erica Sue	Hicks, Ella Mae	Horlin (Murphy), Madlline	Jacobs, John Alexander	Jones, William Arthur
Harlan, Paula Lynn	Hicks, Eric Allen	Horn(Artussee)Adrian A	Jacobs, Katherine Lee	Jordan (Monroe), Jennifer D.
Harley Jr., Richard T.	Hicks, Farrah Denise	Horse, Sophia Denise	Jacobs, Linda	Jordan, Clifford Laverne
Harley Sr., Richard T.	Hicks, Gary Dean	Horton, Artie Raynell	Jacobs, Mary Elizabeth	Jordan, Helen Louise
Harley, Alison June	Hicks, Jason Jon	Horton, Neta Jane	Jacobs, Owen	Joseph, Danny Jose
Harley, Cindy Joann	Hicks, Joseph Monroe	Horton, Tanya Marie	Jaggars (Golden) Dawn Irene	Joseph, Matthew Alan
Harley, Patsy Mae	Hicks, Justin Dewayne	Horton,Charlotte Eliza G.	James (Cole), Cynthia Diane	Joshua, Annie Lou
Harley, Whitney Leann	Hicks, Kassidy Lorene	House, Brian Lee	James Jr., Randy Delaine	Joyner, Martin Christopher
Harmon, Charles Edward	Hicks, Keith Aaron	Houx, Amy Shonta	James, Charlotte Renae	July (Postoak), Tressia L.
Harmon, Kelly Renee	Hicks, Keshia Marie	Houx, Connie Sue	James, Diane Lynnette	July, Florence Marie
Harmon, Robert Edward	Hicks, Michael Keith	Hovell(Chambers)Diana Pearl	James, John David	Juneau, Douglas Charles
Harper, Christopher Travis	Hicks, Nofuah	Howard, Diane Lavone	James, Robert Edward	Juneau, Rhonda Joy
Harper, Connie Sue	Hicks, Rachel Dawn	Howard, Kimberly Roxanne	James, Teresa Mae	Kaler, Bonnie Beth
Harper, Henry Albert	Hicks, Ryan Alexander	Howard, La Donna Marie	James, William Douglas	Kaler, Christine
Harper, James Stephen	Hicks, Sagey Joe	Howard, Larry Ray	Jenkins, William Lance	Kamp, Robert Arthur
Harper, Terry Wayne	Hiett, Julie Ann	Howdeshell Sr., Donald G.	Jennings, Barbara Ann	Karlarneym Betty Jane
Harrell, Roy Don	Higgins, Susie	Howe Jr, Elliott Hampton	Jennings, Chad Andrew	Kaseca, Patricia Louise
Harrell, William Joel	Hildreth, Kritsi Jo	Howell, Barry Wade	Jeremiah, Vicki Lamarr	Kassim(Hale)Audie Jacqueline
Harris, Pamela Sue	Hill (Joy), Joann	Howell, Betty Carol	Jesse, Jimmie Jo	Katcv, Freeman Mitchell
Harris, Patricia Sue	Hill Jr., Benjamin	Howell, Donald Ray	Jihad (Leathers), Roshell	Kaut, Trenna Kay
Harris, Rena Elizabeth	Hill Jr., Dave Cyclone	Howell, Earl Dean	Jimboy (Berryhill), Tonya R.	Keaough (Stomski), Evelyn J.
Harris, Sue	Hill, Amy Lee	Howell, Justin Milles	Jimboy, Jay Martin	Keele, Janet Leigh
Harris, Wilbert Erick	Hill, Annette Jean	Howell, Monica Gail	Jimboy, Marcy	Keele, Valace Marion
Harris, William Michael	Hill, Benjamin	Howell, Terry Darlene	Jimboy, Ray	Keeler, Edgar Lee
Harrison(Fisher)Connie Mae	Hill, Billy	Howerton, Michelle Rene	Jimboy, Richard Allen	Keene (Morrison), Lora Lois
Harrison, Cecelia Ann	Hill, Clark Elliott	Hubbard, Louanna Marie	Jimerson, Jackie Michelle	Keepers, Melisa Lynn
Harrison, Joel Porch	Hill, Clifton Christopher	Huddleston, Billy Wayne	Jobe, Delilah Marie	Keifer (Williams) Johnnie M
Harrison, Mandy Beth	Hill, Clinton Eugene	Hudson, Cecilia Dawn	John, David Loren	Keifer, Ben Lee
Harry, Betty Jo	Hill, Commey	Hudson, Francis L	John, Lucille	Keith (Grice), Sandra Kay
Harry, Randy Gene	Hill, Jacob	Hueston (Davis), Jamie Dee	Johnson, Andrea Lynn	Keith, Gregory Allen
Hart(Spaulding)Shawna S.	Hill, Jacqueline T	Huffman, Ralph Wayne	Johnson, Angela Robin	Kellehan (Hawkins),Paula J
Hart, Gregory Earl	Hill, Josie Joseph	Hufft, Billy Jack	Johnson, Benjamin Wayne	Kellehan, Carla Dawn
Hartung, Jeffrey Brian	Hill, Mandy	Hughes II, Dennis Ray	Johnson, Charlene Marie	Keller, Loretta Lynn
Harvey (Doyle), Delphia	Hill, Rebecca Lynn	Hughes, James Robert	Johnson, Charlotte Deanna	Kelley, Loretta Ilene
Harvey (Haynes), Millie	Hill, Sabrina Diane	Hughes, Keven Duane	Johnson, Clarence L.	Kelley, Melba Ilene
Harvey, Allen Ray	Hill, Sherman Lee	Hulbutta, Deana Larue	Johnson, Daniel Lee	Kellogg, (Radtke), Ronda R.
Harvey, Alpha Mae	Hill, Stevenson James	Hulsey, Harry James	Johnson, Drew Allen	Kelly (Pittman), Dina Kaye
Harvey, Lydia Diane	Hill, Stoney Fallstaff	Hulstine (Aultman), Susan A.	Johnson, Elouise	Kelly, Bill Dean
Harwell (McGirt), Judie E.	Hill, Tamara Denise	Hummingbird(Givens), Gwen	Johnson, Eric Devon	Kelly, Cynthia Ann
Harwell, Bobby Dean	Hill, Wilson	Humphrey (Pittman), Lois	Johnson, Erwin Jan	Kelly, Judy Ann
Harwell, Gilbert Paige	Hillman, John Stephen	Hunt, Alan Girad	Johnson, Eugenia Patrice	Kelough, Crystal Gail
Haschke(Turpin)Barbara S.	Hillmon, Mildred Shannon	Hunt (McCoy), Frances Diana	Johnson, Genevieve	Kelough, Jimmy David
Hasselman, Robert Warren	Hillory, Dorothy	Hunt, Scott Anthony	Johnson, Gregory Wade	Kelough, Toney Wyyone
Hatcher(McCracy), Leslie K.	Hill-Treesh, Treva Gail	Hunt, David Easton	Johnson, (Turbow), Joann	Kemp, Dewana Kimberly
Hawkins Jr., Barney	Hiner, Ashley Rene	Hunt, Donna Jean	Johnson, Jimmie Starr	Kemp, Reuben Thomas
Hawkins, Daniel Ray	Hines Jr., Leo Walker	Hunt, Eddie Dean	Johnson, Joel William	Kennedy, Michael Johnny
Hawkins, Donald Phillip	Hinkle, Warren Thomas	Hunt, Thomas Roy	Johnson, Johnny Allen	Kenney(Brown)Sandra Marie
Hawkins, Gary Eugene	Hise, Nicki Lee	Hunt, William Crawford	Johnson, Joseph	Kennon, Christine Ann



Muscogee Nation News - C5 ELECTION BOARD				
Kennon, Gary Brian	Lawson, Amie Diane	Long, Penny Ann	Marshall, Stoney	McHenry, Charles Elias
Kerby, Norris Shane	Lawson, Gueda Jane	Long, Starla Renea	Martin (Farris), Jane Anne	McHenry, James David
Kerns (Hensley)Charlotte A.	Lawson, Sherry Lynn	Longcrier, Jerry Wade	Martin Jr., Robert Charles Martin,	McHenry, Jon Walter
Kerr, Marc Randen	Lay, Vera Lee	Longhorn, Juanita Louise	Rosa Mary	McHenry, Ronald
Ketchum(Schneider)Gladys	Layman, Gwenevere	Longhorn, Margaret Ethel	Martin(Evans)Clista Clovedell	McIntosh, Brenda Jean
Key (Nelson), Tammy Joyce	Layton, Rachel Lee-Ann	Lonsdale. Alicia Lynn	Martin, Elizabeth Anne	McIntosh, Charles Edward
Kezer, Bryan David	Leach, Loretta Sue	Looney, Julie Deann	Martin, Karen Denise	McIntosh, Christina Marie
Kidwell, Pauline Maggie	Leader, Cynthia Lynn	Looney, Mattie Semhoya	Martin, Kimberley Lashawn Mar-	McIntosh, Debra Kay
Kiehl, Beverly Jean	Leader, Jesse James	Looney, Stephanie Lynn	tin (Reily), Luwana Kay	McIntosh, Delois
Killingsworth, Bunnie Charles	Leader, Nancy Victoria	Lovato, Jason Elliott	Martin, Little Lydia	McIntosh, Dennis Wayne
Killingsworth, Jeffrey Ted	Leader-Harley, Brigita Sue	Love, Ashley Nicole	Martin, Peggy Ann	McIntosh, Elijah Willis
Killingsworth, Michael E.	Leaf, Stephanie	Loven (Brady), Linda Kay	Martin, Rex Allen	McIntosh, Kelli Dion
Kilpatrick III, Albert Lee	Leamon (Green), Betty Sue	Lovett (Crofut), Donna Luann	Mason (Chance), Nancy Sue	McIntosh, Lasley Ryder
Kimble, Travis Lynn	Leard, DaleLee	Lowe, Brandon Scott	Mason(Aultman)Donna Lea	McIntosh, Ledtkey Tonnie
Kimbrell, Rebecca Ann	Leard, Lane Manchie	Lowe, Brandy Michele	Mason, Edward James	McIntosh, Lindsey P.
Kimray, Jimmie Clint	Ledbetter, Shellie Dee	Lowe, Charles Lee	Mason, Jackelyn Marie	McIntosh, Margie Sue
Kindell, Kimberly Jane	Lee, Andrew Dean	Lowe, Corina Beth	Mason, Larry John	McIntosh, Misty Lee
King, Bobby Gene	Lee, Billy Gene	Lowe, Eco Nacobie	Mason, Yarma Faye	McIntosh, Mona J.
King, Bucky Jay	Lee, James Wesley	Lowe, Freeman	Masters, Luzvimenda	McIntosh, Nancy Lee
King, Cynthia Lynn	Lee, Jeanice	Lowe, Galynn Michelle	Masters, Casey Robin	McIntosh, Ned Emerson
King, Dale Edward	Lee, Jeff	Lowe, Gerald Dean	Masterson, Bruce Edward	McIntosh Jr., Paul Wayne
King, David Alan	Lee, Joyce Ann	Lowe, James Howard	Masterson, Bruce John	McIntosh, Phillip Aaron
King, David William	Lee, Kyle Wayne	Lowe, Kristie Michelle	Matheson(Barnett)Katrina D.	McIntosh, Ronald Dean
King, Donald D.	Lee, Ricky James	Lowe, Leslie Janell	Mathew, Barbara Kay	McIntosh, Solomon R.
King, Gerald Lee	Lee, Sherdel	Lowe, Michael Gene	Mathew, Charles Dwayne	McIntosh, Stanley Joe
King (Jones), Joanna Lynn	Lees, Brian Duane	Lowe, Mose Ray	Mathews, Thomas Henry	McIntosh, Stoney Joe
King (Long), Letha Lee	Leek, Michelle Lynn	Lowe, Patricia Ann	Mathews, Wayne Lee	McIntosh, Thomas Ryan
King, Lynn Yvonne	Leftwich, Kimberly Rochelle	Lowe, Ronald James	Matney, Reta Gale	McIntosh, Tyola Emerson
King, Matthew Alan	Leftwich, Link Timothy	Lowe, Sophia Ann	Mattison, Glen Eugene	McIntosh, Vanessa Lynne
King, Melanie Dawn	Leftwich, Tammy Lou	Lowe, Thomas Christopher	Maxey Jr., Joe Phillip	McKane, Gordon Ray
King, Michael Jeffrey	Legrand(Tecumseh), Lahoma	Lowe, Tommy Ray	Maxey, Betty Jane	McKay, Donald Ray
King (Harjo), Nadine	Legrand, Kelly Jean	Lowe, Tony Earnest	Maxwell, Mario Dewayne	McKay, Eddie Lee
King Jr., Robert	Leitka, Joseph Timothy	Lowe, Vincent Derrick	May (Martin), Bekki Jean	McKay, Shirley Gean
King, Tara Ann	Lemmons, Jeri Lynn	Lowe, Wilma Jean	May, Sandra Jane	McKellip, Janice Hope
King, Teresa Angela	Lena, Linda Lou	Lowell(Schneider)Gloria M.	Mayberry, Curtis Ray	McKenzie, Kenneth Rollie
King Jr., Wiley	Lena, Louis	Lower, Angela Nicole	Mayberry, Larry Don	McKinney, Roger Wayne
Kingfisher, Rachel Marie	Lena, Mark D.	Lower, Vickie Angelyne	Mayer (Harrell), Jeania Ann	McKinzie, Jimmy Dewayne
King-Simmons, Carolyn	Lena, Robert Louis	Lowery Jr., Lee Allen	Mayes, Jerry Wayne	McKinzie, Stephen Ray
Kinsey, Chubby Jack	Lenard, Angela Michelle	Lowry, Megan Renee	Mayes, Thomas Dwayne	McKnight, Jan Kathryn
Kirk, Lee Anna	Lenard, Linda Darlene	Loyd, Barry Wendell	Mayes, Wanda Sue	McLaughlin, Bobbie Gail
Kirkland Joe Allen	Leslie, Jeffrey David	Loyd, Bobby David	Mayfield (Benson), Barbara	McLaughlin, Debbie Dee Ann
Kirkland, David Lynn	Lester(Hayden) Betty Jane	Lozier, Karen Dee	Mayfield(Scott), Rosezella	McLaurin Jr., Donald R.
Kirkland, Steven Blaine	Levecque(Whitecotton)Patricia	Lozier, Shawn Lynn	Mays, Paula Rilene	McLaurin Sr., Donald R.
Kirkland, William	Levy, David Benjamin	Lucas, Joe Tom	McAfee (Whitson) Martha	McLaurin, Bernice
Kirkpatrick, Sarah Jame	Lewallen, Melissa Ann	Lucas, Robert Jesse	McAlester, Lanita Kaye	McLaurin, Kenneth Norvell
Klein, Cassandra Lee	Lewis, Big Cloud	Luce, Gladys Mae	McBride (Fields), Marcella F.	McLaurin, Lonnie Aren
Knapper, Ella Louise	Lewis, Bryan L.	Luellen, Bradley Lefate	McBride(Murphy), Erma Jean	McLaurin, William Oscar
Knight (Beaver), Carol Denise	Lewis Jr., Charles L.	Luellen, Clemma Rose	McCabe, Terry	McLean (Foster), Nancy E.
Knight, Bobby Joe	Lewis, Cynthia Lynn	Luellen, William Rodney	McCalip, Jaime Lynn	McLemore, Jerri Lynn
Knight, Charles Wallace	Lewis, Daniel Lewallen	Lugo, Billie Joe	McCampbell(Johnson)Sheila	McMahan (Barnes), Joyce
Knotts (Allen), Juanita Louise	Lewis, Eric Todd	Luke (Martin), Mary Ruth	McCargo, Renatee' Danielle	McMahan, David Shane
Knox, David Lee	Lewis, Frances Kay	Lukens(Robinson), Tina June	McCarty, Eldridge Deon	McMahan, Sheryl Lynn
Knox, Michael Wayne	Lewis, Jackie Wayne	Lumpkin, Senora	McCarty, Kevin Drew	McNac, Georgia Ann
Koch, Paul Brandon	Lewis, James Randall	Lunsford, Christine	McCaslin, Janie Birdie Mae	McNac, Jennie Lee
Koch, Stephanie Janeen	Lewis, Jessie Wayne	Lunsford, Esther Sue	McChristian, Michael Wayne	McNac, Kimberly Ray
Kolakowski, Dennis Wayne	Lewis, Jimmy David	Luquette, Raelena Lyn	McClain Jr., John Albert	McNac, Marthenia Louise
Korgan (Rich), Jaime Danielle	Lewis, Michael Greg	Luster, Melissa Ann	McCloskey(Thomas), Barbara	McNac, Michael Dane
Kouplen, Sean Paul	Lewis, Rodney Jerod	Luster, Michael Ray	McCloskey, Trix Leann	McNac, Wendall Alan
Krank, Dennis Gray	Lewis, Shalon Denise	Luster, Ray Clinton	McClung III, Charles Edward	McNack Jr., Alex
L'Ecuyer, Lawrence James	Lewis, Teresa Ann	Lusty, David Lee	McClure, Betty Jane	McNeese, Robert Allen
La Deaux, Gwendolyn	Lewis (Hutchins), Tina Jo	Lusty, John Eric	McConnell, Anne Ashley	McQuarie, Robert James
Lacey, Starr Dawn	Lewis, W. T.	Lusty, Lorene	McConnell, Michael Steven	McQueen (Estle), Dana Rai
Lackey, Billy Joe	Lewis, William Russell	Lutz(McNeese),Marla Jenee	McCosar(McCombs), Vivian	McVeigh, Judy Marie
Lackey, Buddie Austin	Lidyard(Hansard)Pamela J.	Lynn, Gary Lee	McCosar, Larry	Mead, Jean Evelyn
Lackey, Charles Edward	Lieber, John Howard	Lynn, Marion Dale	McCosar, Christopher Daniel	Mead, Jeffery Dale
Ladd, Michael Lawrence	Lillard, Jennie Lousie	Lyon, Phillip Earl	McCosar, James Patrick	Mead, Jerry Ray
Ladd, Robert Louis	Lillgard, Robert Eugene	Lyons, Louise Blake	McCosar, Janie Ruth	Mead, Robbie Rae
Lakey, Amanda Kay	Lincoln, Michael David	Mack. Wanda Delois	McCoy JR., Melvin Murrel	Meadows, James David
Laman, Richard James	Linderman, Jo Ann	Mackey, Connie Marie	McCoy, Devin Cole	Meeley, Preston
Lamb, Brian Keith	Lindsay, Elissa Genine	Mackey, Karen Yvonne	McCoy, Tammy Jean	Meely, Alex Michelle
Lamb, Jewell Dean	Lindsey, Little Chofolope	Madewell, Mary Beth	McCray, Henry Robert	Meely, Arnold Douglas
Lambertson, Daniel N.	Lindsey, Lola Christine	Madlom, Nancy Lou	McCutchen, Becki Janetta	Meely, Elizabeth
Lamberson, Ronald Joe	Lindsey, Minnie Lou	Madrid (Lane), Lori Anne	McCutcheon, Carol Joan	Meely, Randella Deeanne
Lamproe, Anna Marie	Lindsey, Neomi Jean	Mahee Jr., Otis	McCutcheon, Daniel rian	Meitler (Harris), Jacquie L.
Land, Dinah K.	Lingerfelt(Harjo) Bobbie Jean	Mahoney, Asil Pete	McCutcheon, Jeffery Scott	Melson III, William Alexander
Land, Phillip Carl	Lipp (Gilbert), Serena K	Mahurin(Ford)Beverly Guinn	McCutcheon, Nellie Mae	Mendoza Jr., Miguel Angelo
Lanham, Russell Lee	Little (Watt), Donna Gail	Manaia (Burton), Linda Lee	McCutcheon, Samuel Richard	Mendoza, Robert Rayaldo
Landis II, William Edward	Little , Jerry Joe	Maness, Tonya Michele	McDermott, Reba Jean	Mercer, Philleesha J.
Landsberry Jr., Jack Allen	Little(Bruner), Debbie Kay	Mangum, Ta'Tanisha Nachell	McElhannon, Tammy M.	Merrell Jr., John Hiram
Landsberry, Mary Dean	Little, Kendall Jay	Manion, Casey Sean	McElroy, James Edward	Merrell, Jennifer Lynn
Lane (Bricker), Paula Jo	Little, Minnie Jean	Manley, Emmett Joe	McElroy, Shelly Annette	Merriman, Lou Wanda
Lane (King), Lila Ann	Little, Patricia Marie	Mann (Bruner), Martha L.	McElroy, Timothy Wayne	Mesnard, Mary Frances
Lane, Barbara Karol	Littleaxe(Hill), Shelley Sue	Mann(Castleberry)Terri Lee	McElroy, Virgina Louise	Meyer, Charles Warren
Lane, Constance Jean	Littlehead, Brannon Wesley	Mannon, Robert Lynn	McGeeley, Benjamin Wayne	Mickey, Mary Ann
Langston, Phillip Douglas	Littlehead, Mitchell Dean	Mapes(Zimmerman)Billy J.	McGeeley, Doris Lorene	Mickey, Michael Wayne
Langston, Richard Andrew	Littlehead, Pamela Jean	Marble, Ivan Franklin	McGeeley, Jennie Ann	Middleton Jr., James E.
Langston, Richard Douglas	Littlehead, Shirley Ann	Marcinkevius, Misty Dawn	McGehee(Barnett)Marsha K	Middleton, Amanda Jeanette
Lanham, Larry Lee	Littlehead, William Bill	Markland (Dazzler), Hannah	McGertt, Louis	Milam, Jane Elizabeth
Lanier, Lisa Michelle	LittleJohn, Raeann	Marks, Cheyenne Lee	McGilbra, James Louis	Mills (Gray), Deanna Lee
Lansford, Kevin Bryon	Littlesun, Nowa	Marr (Chisholm), Shelly Kay	McGilbray, Joe Michael	Miller Jr., Carl Eugene
Lara (Fixico), Wynona	Lively, Brenda Lorraine	Marris (Hawkins) Louise	McGilbray, Matthew David	Miller Jr., Coydell
Larew, Carol Sue	Livingston, Jessica Lea	Marsey, Lucy Mae	McGilbray, Stanley Frank	Miller Jr., David Austin
Large (McLain), Stephanie A.	Locust, Allen Lee	Marshall, Bobby Dale	McGinnis, Shannon Denise	Miller, Carol Lynn
Larkin Jr., Johnnie	Locust, Robyn Lanette	Marshall, Eugenia Ann	McGirt, Brian Ray	Miller, Claude Ernest
Larney, Danny Clay	Logan Jr., John Baker	Marshall, Jeffrey Allen	McGirt, Christopher Lee	Miller, Erica Marie
Lasarge, Charley Lewis	Logan, Cassity Allen	Marshall, Jerry Legus	McGirt, Maurice Anthony	Miller, Freda
Lasarge, Della Mae	Loggins, Minnie Lee	Marshall, Leah Rose	McGirt, Michael Dee	Miller, Gwendolyn Sue
Lasater, James Edward	Lollman (Gilroy), Cheri Joann	Marshall (Marks), Leona Mae	McGirt, Michael Gene	Miller, Howard Eugene
Latchaw(McMullen)Raelyn	Loney, Timothy James	Marshall (Marks), May	McGirt, Nicholas	Miller, Jacqueline Lee
Laughlin, Audie James	Long (Vines), Alivia Ann	Marshall, Michael	McGirt, Patrick Lynn	Miller, Jerry Denise
Laughlin, Christine Rosetta	Long, Darlene Joann	Marshall, Polly Francis	McGuire, Annette Starr	Miller, Jimmy Lee
Laughlin, Patricia Ann	Long, Keith Aaron	Marshall, Richard Allen	McGuire, Estalene	Miller, Liann
Laughlin, Shane	Long, Leslie Ray	Marshall Jr., Sam Tucker	McGuire, Howard Lee	Miller, Nikia Jean
LaValley, Thomas Huey	Long, Mellissa Jean	Marshall, Semary Ann	McGuire, Peggy Anne	Miller, Randall Dale



Miller, Robert Chance	Narcomey, Anthony Mark	Parnosky, Tiffanie Dawn	Pollard, Johnny Lee	Ray, Louanne Elizabeth
Miller, Robert Scott	Narcomey, Georgia Ann	Parris, Alan Bruce	Polon, Katherine Elise	Ray, Patricia Elizabeth
Miller, Ronnie Eddie	Nations, Angela Trish	Partee (Grayson)Lorraine	Pool(Hailey), Helen Mae	Red Eagle (Bear), Cherly A.
Miller, Sarah Ann	Navarro, Lisa Marie	Partee, David Wayne	Pool, Mark DeMond	Red Elk (Ray) Frances Eileen
Miller, Thomas Ray	Navarro, Stacia Renee	Partridge, James Michael	Poole, Allen J.	Redeau, Christopher Jon All
Mills, David Lawrence	Neafus, Jerry Don	Pass (Stacy), Marion Lee	Poole, Earl J.	Redeau, Kenneth Charles
Mills, Leslie Paige	Neafus, Paul Franklin	Pass, Amanda Lynn	Poole, Jason Chadwick	Redeker(Gordon), Cathy Ann
Mills, Shawne Kelley	NeaL, Albert Lewis	Passah (Gouge), Betty Jean	Poole, LaCinda Lee	Reece, Wehnoka DeAnne
Millwee (Willmon), Teresa D.	Neal, Bertha Kathlene	Patterson, Mason Guy	Poole, Randy Fred	Reed (Roe), Sharon Elaine
Minnix, Erin Kristin	Neal, James Boyd	Patterson, Rena Sue	Pope (Scott), Maria	Reed Jr., Frank Milton Pat
Minter, George Arthur	Neal, Jennifer Dawn	Patterson, Stacy Lynn	Pope, Joseph Verlyn	Reed, Charles William
Minter, Marilyn	Nease(Mouse), Viola Marie	Patterson, Traci Lanae	Pope, Lesa Ann	Reed, Dennis Morris
Minter, Nancy	Nededog(Belter)Carol Lynne	Patterson, Trellas Kaye	Porter (Tucker), Edna Marie	Reed, Dortha
Minyard, Johnathan Frank	Neeley, Clark Earnest	Payne(Young)Lauren Cecelia	Porter, Freeling Alex	Reed, Jeffrey Dan
Mirabal(Boyd)Charleen K	Nelson, Brandy Dawn	Payne, Michael Wayne	Posey, Eloise Kay	Reed, Patricia Ann
Mitchell, Byron Lee	Nelson, Robert Glen	Payne, Michele Leigh	Posey, William Lee	Reed, Timothy Alfred
Mitchell, Christopher Shane	Nero Jr., Joseph Lee	Payne, Pamela Elaine	Postoak, Curtis Quin	Reeder(McGirt),Deborah Ann
Mitchell, Gary Cheparney	Nester(Gray),Ramona Faye	Pearce(Bruner)Charlotte A.	Postoak, Johnny Gene	Reeder, Robert Dewayne
Mitchell, Johnnie Lou	Newberry, Jackie Lee	Pearson (Morgan), Mary E.	Postoak, Monty Dale	Reel(Pittman), DonnaShierie
Mitchell, Tampia	Newberry, Larry Fletcher	Pearson, Rickey Don	Postoak, Wanda Mae	Rehling (Benham) Melinda Jo
Mitchell, Thomas Alfred	Newberry, Randall Royce	Pease, Ronnie Anthony	Potter, Patrica	Reiner, Joshua Mikael
Mitchell, Verna Lee	Newman, (Watson), Pyllis J.	Peck, Gary Don	Poulter(Bowman)Shirley Kay	Reins, Donette Ann
Moffer (McCoy), KarenJean	Newport (Buckner), Margie	Peck, Joseph Allen	Pounds, Dennis L'Roi	Remis, Eugenia Michelle
Moffer Jr., Eddie James	Newrider (Pidgeon) Tina Lee	Pendergraft, Mary Jane	Powell, Anita Sue	Remis, Shelia Faye
Monahwee, Anthony Wayne	Nichols Jr., David Dewayne	Pedigo (Ansiel), Tracie Alice	Powell, Bobbie Jean	Remis, Tiffany Michelle
Monahwee, Michael Jones	Nichols, Margaret Ann	Peeper, Della Jean	Powell, Carolyn K.	Remis, Tommy Joe
Monahwee, Solomon	Nichwander, Vada Lillian	Pelts (Turner), Deborah	Powell, Danny	Revard, Regena Gay
Monahwee, Yommie Lee	Nickell Jr., Maynard Kelly	Pemberton, Sally Ann	Powell, Irene S.	Revis, Annella Marie
Moncrief, Starlina Lynn	Nilima, Teresa Ann	Pena, Anthony Timothy	Powell, Jerry Dean	Revis, Lester Bruce
Monday, Camella	Ninsey, Brook Reed	Pender (Coffee), Esther Lee	Powell, Karen June	Revis, Sammie Charles
Monday, Lewis Ray	Nipper, Bonita Kay	Pendergrass(Deere)Dee Anna	Powell, Roy	Reyes, Randell
Mondragon, Destiny E.	Nixon, Billy Jean	Pendergrass, Carol Ann	Powell, Sandy	Reyes, Stacie Elaine
Monroe, James Richard	Nixon, Brenda Lee	Pendergrass, Patsy Fern	Powell, Tonia	Reynolds, Audy Lee
Montgomery(Rogers)Christine	Nixon, Crystal Jean	Pendleton, David Anson	Powers (Collins)Carolyn S.	Reynolds, Charlene Kay
Montgomery, Consuelo Katie	Nixon, Eddie	Perkins, Delana Ann	Powers, Jennifer Lorraine	Reynolds, Herman Gene
Montgomery, Lenora	Nixon, Freddy Lee	Perkins, Jason Robert	Powers, Muriel Marie	Reynolds, Paul Anthony
Montgomery, Marcus	Nixon, Jimmy Alton	Perry(Alexander)Emma Jayne	Prentice(Tiger)Shaunna M.	Reynolds, Sonia Dee
Montgomery, Mary Jo	Nixon, Kelly Jean	Perry, Marcia Leigh	Prescott, Shannon Lee	Rhyne (Hayes) Louise
Montgomery, Sherry An	Nixon, Kniga Ann	Perry, William Christopher	Prevett, Dale Alan	Rhynes (Bradsher) Lisa Ann
Montgomery, Woodrow C.	Nixon, Sherri Ann	Perryman Jr., Henry Clay	Price, Dan Kent	Rice, Marilyn Jeanne
Montoya, Lily Christine	Nixon, Steve Ray	Perryman, Harry Gals	Price, Heather Jean	Rich(Danenet), Whitney L.
Monts, Jeanetta O'Olivia	Nokushutche, Pzce Hutke	Perryman, Jason Lee	Price, Michael Douglas	Rich, Robert Brent
Mooney, Darrell Duane	Noon Jr., Nathan	Perryman, Lewis Rueben	Price, Tammy Rene	Richards, Ruby Dale
Mooney, Kelli Dawn	Noon, Alisha Renee	Perryman, Lyle Arden	Pridemore(Cvey)Bonnie Lee	Richardson, James Davis
Moore (Cole), Deana Sue	Noon, Eric Ray	Perryman, Paul Kevin	Pridgen, Evelyn Grace	Richardson, Misty Dawn
Moore (Harjo), Leah Marie	Noon, Michael Timothy	Perryman, Tenah Marie	Primeaux, Bertha Louise	Richardson, Valerie Kaye
Moore, Albert Daniel	Noon, Patricia Lorene	Perryman, Thomas Eugene	Primeaux, Jamima Louise	Richardson, Vernanell
Moore, Damon Dion	Nordlund (Burton), Judith R.	Petersen, Elizabeth Ann	Primeaux, Micky	Richardson, Victor Lloyd
Moore, James Aaron	Noriega, Anthony Steve	Peterson (Perryman), Shelley	Proctor (Harjo) Bernice	Rickert, Patsy Lynn
Moore, James Edwin	Noriega, Manuel	Peterson, Stacey Dale	Proctor, Benny Ray	Rico, Brandon Lee
Moore, Jimmie Dee	Noriega, Raymond Wayne	Peyketewa, Jemal	Proctor, Etta Luretha	Riddle, Rachel Ann
Moore, Kelley Roberta	Norris (Stacy), Florence K.	Peyton (Tiger), Louise	Proctor, Fannie Lydia	Ridenhour (Thomas), Linda S.
Moore, Lori Denise	Northcutt, Eldon Lee	Pharaoh, Danie Lynn	Proctor, Franklin D.	Ridley (Neal), Loretta Irene
Moore, Natasha Denise	Northcutt, Jogbodie Marie	Phelan, Frederick William	Proctor, Hattie Louise	Riggle (Hannan), Ella Ruth
Moore, Robert Jack	Nowlen(Hansard)Patricia A.	Phillips, Bill	Proctor, James Samuel	Riley, Beaver Kyle
Moore, Whitney Lynn	Nunn, Alena Michelle	Phillips, Deborah	Proctor, Jarrod	Riley, James Glen
Moore, William Roy	Nye, Antonio Gabriel	Phillips, Debra Denise	Proctor, Leah Ann	Riley, Jonathan J.
Moores, Rohn Eric	O'Connor (Wright), Kellie L.	Phillips, Felicia Diane	Proctor, Lewis Newcus	Riley, Richard Earl
Morales, Eliot Eslin	O'Connell, Steven Michael	Phillips, Helen Ruth	Proctor, Louisa Kay	Riley, Theodore G.
Mordecai, Kimberly Jane	O'Donnell(Hodges)Shonda K.	Phillips Jr., Joe Edward	Proctor, Marcus Wayne	Riley, Trillia Louise
Morgan(Johnson)Barbara J.	O'Donnell, Michelle Lynn	Phillips, Matthew	Proctor, Patty Jo	Rinehart, Richard Charles
Morgan, Betty Ann	O'Field, Jackie	Phillips, Paul Franklin	Proctor, Reuben	Rinehart, Ronald Thomas
Morgan, David Eugene	O'Hern, John David	Phillips, Sharon	Proctor, Stephanie Leasa	Rippee(Walker), RobinLee
Morgan, Eddie	O'Mahony (Brown), Robin D.	Phillips, Shari Lynn	Prommart, Melissa Rae	Rippetto, Mauna Jean
Morgan, James	Obregon (Berryhill), Vicki L.	Phillips, Steven Wayne	Provence, Evelyn J.	Rippy Jr, Vaston
Morgan, John Robert	Ochoa (Harjo), Katherine E.	Phillips, Teresa Lynn	Pruitt, Lesa Deeann	Rippy, Jason Wayne
Morgan, Raymond Lee	Odom Jr., Ray Vance	Pickard (Smith) Yvonne	Pullen(Campbell),Cathy Cheri	Risenhoover(Stubblefield)Shirley
Morgan, Richard Dale	Odom, Michael Wayne	Pickering, Timothy	Purdin, Tony Allen	Risley, Herbert Lee
Morgan, Ronald Alec	Odom, Ruth Ann	Pierce Jr., Melvin James	Qualls, Tina Louise	Ritter, Tammy Lynn
Morgan, Russell Micheal	Olansen, Diana	Pigeon, Angeles Francis	Quapaw, Terry Lee	Roach, Damon Bradley
Morgan, Todd Howitt	Oliver, Jacky Clenton	Pigeon, Billy Ray	Quick Jr., William Henry	Roach, Kevin Ward
Morris, Cassandra Lashae	Oliver, Larry Leon	Pigeon, Kimberly Rena	Quinones, Raymond Anthony	Roberson(Lantz)Kiley Nicole
Morris, Leonard Clifton	Oliver, Lisa Elaine	Pigeon, Michael DeWayne	Quinton, Jerry Duane	Roberts, Anthony Dean
Morris, Rachel Suzanne	Oliver, Marva Jo	Pigeon, Nancy	Quiroz, Jody Lynne	Roberts, Donald Gene
Morris, Valerie	Olsen, Jerome Andrew	Pigeon, Nicholas Anthony	Rabbit, Edmond McCarthur	Roberts, Elizabeth Ann
Morris-Therwood, Chris S.	Opperman, Carolyn Lenora	Pigeon, Ricky Nel	Radike, Edward Jay	Roberts, Gena Frances
Morrow(McIntosh)Denise D.	Orcutt, Charles Lee	Pigeon, Stanley Guy	Raefield, Kelli Dawn	Roberts, Ida Louise
Morton IV, Charles Milan	Orcutt, Roy Dean	Pidgeon, Tina Marie	Raines (Brasuell), Mitzi Lee	Roberts, Iva Lynn
Moses (Adams), Cynthia R.	Orr, Sally Shannon	Pike, Pamela Rebecca	Rakestraw, Barbara Lynn	Roberts, Jeana Lynn
Mosquito, James Dunham	Orr, Thomas Sidney	Pilant, Mark Anthony	Rakestraw, Beatrice Grace	Roberts, Merna Lyn
Mount, Kimberly Gayle	Osborne, Jennifer RayInn	Pilcher(Nichols)Helaina R.	Ralston, Amanda Lynn	Roberts, Michael Eugene
Muller (Elsey), Pauline	Osborne, Shelley Marie	Pinion Carl Eugene	Ralston, Billy Joe	Roberts, Paul West
Mulliniks(Tolbert)Judy D.	Osceola, Stephen Leon	Pinion, Kevin Lee	Ralston, Harvey Lee	Roberts, Richard Joseph
Munds, Amanda Anne	Osterhoudt(George)Marilyn	Pinney Jr., Dale Martin	Ralston, Vernon R.	Roberts, Sandra A.
Munds, Nancy Kaye	Ostrowski, Shawna Marie	Pipkins, Kimberly Earline	Rame (Hunter), Joetta Gail	Robinson, Agnes Fern
Murdock (Loar)Barbara Ann	Overstreet(Pittman)Deborah	Pittman Jr., Bennie Duane	Ramsey (Gabler), Treca Ann	Robinson (Schimmel), Amy C.
Murphy III, Frank Willie	Owen, Janet Kay	Pittman, Arthur Ray	Ramsey(Ceasar)Mildredge Z.	Robinson(Tiger) Erma Jeane
Murphy, Aubrey Gene	Owens, Danny Floyd	Pittman, Eddie Jeffery	Ramsey, Ricky Wade	Robinson, Jimmy Lee
Murphy, Phillip Ray	Pace, Robert Eugene	Pittman, Ethel	Randall, Ella Mae	Robinson Jr., Nolen Gene
Murphy, Wilkie W.	Pahsetopah, Jon Montel	Pittman, Jay W.	Randall, Hanna Jo	Robinson(Fortune)Rosalious
Murray(Hunter)Carol Sue	Pahsetopah, Vicky L.	Pittman, Johnny Leonard	Randall, Jeanetta Lynn	Robison, Barney Clay
Murray, Robert Wayne	Palmer(Burris)Jo Stephanie	Pittman, Michael Gene	Randall, Letha Dean	Robison, Bert Henry
Murtensen, Amber Michelle	Palmer, Charles David	Pittman, Michael Jay	Randall, Mickey Dimaggio	Robison, Joshua Randall
Musick, Meridith Ann	Palmer, Kimberly Rae	Pittman, Michael Ray	Randall, Richard	Robison, Manny Rollan
Mustari, Carmen Joseph	Pangle, Catherine Ann	Pittman, Paul Trammell	Randall, Rodney Frank	Robison, Patsy Wynema
Myer, Genelle	Pangle, Nikki Michelle	Pittman, Tommy Dale	Randall, Rodney Mitchell	Robison, Scott Wayne
Myers (Frazier), Gay Lucille	Panoske, Lou Alice	Pittman, Walter Langston	Randall, Ronald Lee	Rodebush, Nina Rose
Myers, Betty Ann	Parker (Scott), Carolyn Gayle	Plevel, Steven Earl	Randle (Morris), Tammy E.	Rodgers, Linda Joyce
Myers, Jonlea	Parker Jessica Arlene	Plummer, Merlyn Douglas	Randolph, Jan Lynn	Rodgers, Sharlinda Lynn
Nail, Shanda Lea	Parker, Bobbie Jo	Poafpybitty, Irene Francella	Raper, Elsie Louise	Rogers (Bales), Lillie Leona
Nail, Tonya Lee	Parker, David Graham	Poindexter(Richards), Tonya	Rash, Ramona Renee	Rogers Jr., Norman Leo
Najera (Burleson), Vickie L.	Parker, Jacob Charles	Polk(Compton)Crystal Gail	Rathbun, Jerry Robert	Rogers, Angela Rene
Napier, Malissa Drew	Parkinson, James J.	Polk, Calvin Benjamin	Ray (Goode), Shirley Irene	Rogers, Glenda Irene
Narcomey(Lewis)Blanche A.	Parnosky, Kevin Wayne	Pollard, John Calvin	Ray, Alecia Gail	Rolland, James Anthony



Muscogee Nation News - C7 ELECTION BOARD			
Rolland, James Michael	Scott, Stacey Gene	Smith(Collins)Laura Shannon	Stubbs(Breshears)Kathy Lynn
Rolland, Robert Glenn	Scott, Tommy Joe	Smith(Ishmael)Linda Lee	Stuckey Jr., Charles Eudel
Rometo, Faith Patricia	Scott (Marks), Wanda Faye	Smith(Tiger)Louise Mania	Sugar Jr., Christopher
Romig, Douglas Dean	Scott Jr., Willmott Collins	Smith, Melinda Jane	Suire, Angela Suanna
Rooks, Brenda Carol	Scraper, Deanna A.	Smith, Melinda Suzanne	Sullins, Dovie
Rooks, Ellis Bobby	Scraper, Tonya Kay	Smith Sr., Mickey	Sullins, Larry don
Rooks, Michael George	Scrapper, Mitchelle Mae	Smith, Mildred Aline	Sullins, Lisa Joann
Root, Carla ReNae	Scroggins Jr., Richard David	Smith, Natasha Jill	Sullins, Ralph Edward
Rose Jr., Dayton Morrison	Seacat, Harry Joseph	Smith, R. C. Smith Jr., William	Sullins, Randall Dewayne
Rose, Roger Phillip	Sealy Jr., Clifford Charles	Smith, Shannon Wayne	Sullins, Roger William
Rose, Tammy Jean	Seiler(Keener) Cynthia Marie	Smith, Sherry Lynn	Sulphur, Frederick Manuel
Ross, Charlotte Kay	Seitz (Lieber), Betty Ann	Smith(Hedge)Tammy Lou	Sumka, Bill Lydell
Ross, Eric Dale	Seitz, Robert Joseph	Smith (Dewoody), Terri L.	Sumka, Doris Sue
Ross, Robert Eugene	Sekayouma, Steven Keith	Smith(Golden)Terina Jean	Sumka, Marvin Lee
Ross, Wendell Bernard	Self, Brett Nelson	Smith, Thomas Keith	Sumka,Martin Lee
Roughface Jr., Alva Eugene	Self, Dan John	Smith, Tina Maria	Summers, Sarah Elizabeth
Roughface, David Lee	Self, Michael Delbert	Smithee, Derek Ron	Sunday, Bob Leon
Rowe, Brian Wayne	Self, Ruben Delbert	Smithee, Kirk Renee	Sunday, Dena Kay
Rowe, Christine Michelle	Self, Ruben Kevin	Smoot, Aimee Christin	Supernaw, Charles Lewis
Rowe, Jackie Larae	Selsor, William Alfred	Smoot, Jerry Doyle	Sutton, Terry Lee
Rowland, Betty Jo	Settle, Lisa Anne	Smoot, Mary Kathrine	Swampter, Marcelina Olivia
Rowland, Christopher Keith	Severs, Christine Elouise	Snell, Thomas Aarich	Swarer, Tracy Lynn
Rowland, Robert Evans	Severs, John Lee	Snider, Bettye Jo	Swearengin(Gurtier)Shelly A
Rozell, Stephanie Kaye	Severs, John Patrick	Snyder (Reel), Shelly Lynn	Sweny, Tracy Wayne
Rumsey, Monty Cole	Sevier, Charles	Soap Jr., LeeRoy	Swinford, Eric Morrow
Rumsey, Paul Joseph	Sevier, Glenn Willis	Sorensen, Harold Raymond	Switch, Vonda Janene
Russell (Reeder), Erica M.	Sewell, Marcie Ann	Southerland Jr., Ebbin Raney	Switzer, Brian Wade
Russell, Cindy Renn	Seymour, Mark Wayne	Soweka, Shabon Ryan	Swope, Roger Eric
Russell, Robert Owen	Shade, Paulette Sue	Sowell, David Buck	Swope, Tyler James
Ryan, Carol Jean	Shannon, Leonard Ralph	Spain, Alvena Louise	Syblon, Alice Kaye
Ryder, Carol Sue	Sharp, Alvin Willard	Spain, Jerry Wayne	Syfert(Stanke)Dolores Jean
Sack, Curtis Eugene	Sharp, Andrew Jason	Spain(Harjochee)Julia J	Tabor (Tinney), Nancy C.
Sala, Galen Dewayne	Sharp, Donald W.	Spain, Michelle Lynn	Talamasy, Ladena Ruth
Saline Jr., Stevin Jay	Sharp, Jim	Spain, Raymond Lewis	Talley (Billie), Loretta Faye
Saltsman, Michael Hunter	Shatswell Jr., John Wesley	Spaniard, Jayme Rae	Tanner, Alvin Patrick
Sample, Elizabeth Ann	Shatswell, Samantha Jane	Spear (McKany), Alta Lee	Tanner, Ramona Jane
Sampson III, William	Shaw, John Richard	Spear, Kevan Luke	Tanner, Richard Warren
Samuel, Betty Jean	Shawnee, Echo Maren	Spear, Kimmy Lynn	Tarpalechee, Edward M.
Samuels (Robbins)Terri Lynn	Shawnee, Sierra Lauren	Speer (McElroy), Julie V.	Tarpalechee, Tyler Blue
Sanchez, Joyce Ann	Sheldon(Crooks), Colleen J.	Spencer (Gilbert), Laura Ruth	Taryole, Newman
Sanders (Lowery), Annette R.	Shell(Holland)Joyce Elaine	Spencer, Michael Edward	Taryole, Norman Lee
Sanders, Brenda Jane	Shell, Vicki Lynne	Spencer, Terri Lee	Tate, Jennifer Rachel
Sanders, Elves Dwain	Shelley(Wilkins)Marilyn	Springer, Kyle Benson	Tate, Diana Lynn
Sanders, James Lee	Shephard, Leon	Sprinkle(Alexander)Linda D.	Tate, Lawanda Ann
Sanders, James Richard	Sheppard, Betty June	Spurlock, John Robert	Taylor, Bonita Kaye
Sanders, Karen Gayle	Shields(Stone)Suzanne E.	Stacy(Beauford)Florence A.	Taylor (Escoe), Christine A.
Sanders, Polly Anne	Shinogee, Edward Samuel	Stafford, Jackie Dean	Taylor (Haikey), Connie R
Sanders, Robin Patrick	Shipley, Marjorie Jeam	Stafford, Raylene	Taylor, Debra Marie
Sanders, Ruby Lee	Shirley, Ashley Danielle	Staggs(Moore) Dorothy Rene	Taylor, Elizabeth Francis
Sanders, Stacey Jo	Shobe(Berryhill)Nancy Jo	Standley, Fred Smith	Taylor, Elmer
Sanders, Tecumseh John	Shoemake, Betty Alene	Standley, Tonya Louise	Taylor, John Forrest
Sanders, Tisa Ann	Shope(Birdsong), Wanda	Stanke, Donad Edward	Taylor, Joshua Redeagle
Sanders, Virgil	Short, Gerri Lynn	Stanley (Wray), Jewell Ruth	Taylor (Bell), Joyce Ruth
Sands, Andrew Beau	Shoun/Smith, Ski Sierra	Stanley, David Ray	Taylor, Justin Ray
Sands, Anthony Aaron	Showman, Thomas Ryan	Stanton, Terri Lynn	Taylor, Lucas
Sands, Carl J.	Shropshire, Tamara Kay	Stapp, Clint Gene	Taylor, Marta Jane
Sands, Rickey Lee	Shuffield, Michael Eugene	Stapp, Rita Lorene	Taylor, Mary Ann
Sands, Robert Lemley	Sides, Clinton Patrick	Starkey Jr., Lloyd Michael	Taylor (Cole), Nellie
Sands, Terry Amos	Simmer, Daniel Arch	Starkey, Charlotte Lynn	Taylor, Nicole Tyne
Sands, Tony Ray	Simmers, Carol Sue	Starkey, Ryan Joseph	Taylor, Patricia
Sanford (Kasper), Tressa Lynn	Simmers, Wendy Lee	Starkey, Yvette Lynn	Taylor, Suzanne Elaine
Sanger, David Fenton	Simmons, Robert Cale	Starks Jr., Gordon Bond	Taylor, Tara Faye
Sappington(Helscel)Sherry L.	Simon (Davidson), Lahoma	Starks, Donette Cecile	Taylor, Terra Jean
Sapulpa, Ella L.	Simonds(Faggen)Patricia A	Starr, Allene Marie	Taylor, Tony Gilbert
Sapulpa, Melissa Chutkee	Simpson, Charles Desmond	Starr, Erick Wayne	Taylor, Tyrone Dane
Sapulpa, Scott Omiya	Simpson, Sallie	Starr, Michael Dewayne	Taylor, William Kenneth
Sapulpa, Sean Choposka	Simpson, Sean Eddward	Starr, Patsy Lynn	Teague, Gerri Lynn
Sarniento, Judy Louise	Simpson, William Andres	Starr, Reuben Leroy	Teague, Janice Marie
Sarracino(Bruner), Leah M	Sinohui, Gwendolyn	Starr, Rhonda Lynn	Teague, Renita Marie
Sarty III, Herbert Lee	Sinor, Amy Denise	Steele (Scott) Wynema E	Tecumseh, Cetto-Mekko
Sarty, James Monroe	Sisco, Deborah Lynn	Steele, Dustan Shane	Tecumseh, Jeremy Louis
Saunders, Kristopher Dale	Sisk, Dana Delois	Stefanek, Kenneth Thomas Steger	Tecumseh, Juanita
Sayles, Maurica Evett	Sisney, Anna	(Harwell), Shelley D	Tecumseh, Lisa June
Scantlen, Barbara Lou	Sivadon, Grant Horace	Stephens, Bert Aralando	Tecumseh, Mulsie Jo
Schanks, Billy Lee Wayne	Skaggs, Jerry Kim	Stephens, Carolyn	Tecumseh, Priscilla Lynn
Schanks, Shirlene Gail	Skinner, Jimmy Ray	Stephens, John Matthew	Tedford, Perry Douglas
Schasteen, Sandra Jean	Slaton, Pamela Sue	Stephens Jr., John Whitman	Temple II, John Arthur
Schiele, Jennifer Ann	Slaughter, Dana Laree	Stephens, Lena Mae	Tennant(Brockman)Sharon
Schmidt (Cole)Jeannene E	Slaughter, Jimmy Don	Stephens, Michael	Terrell(Doty)Sandra Eileen
Schmidt, David Bruce	Slay (Hester), sue Ann	Stephens, Paul David	Terry, Frank Amos
Schmidt, Delta Marie	Slayden (Barnett), Leola M.	Stephens, Richard Cornell	Thames, Barbara Jane
Schmidt, William Bryant	Slinker Jr., Charles (Chuck)	Stephens Jr., Robert Donald	Thames, Ellen Nora
Schooley, Randall Lee	Slinker, John Andrew	Stephens, Roy Lee	Thames, Richard Gene
Schoonover II, Vernon G.	Slinker, Laresa Marie	Sterner, Billy Christopher	Thasiah(McCutcheon)Billie F.
Schreiner(Holleyman)Rhoda	Sloan, Jane Kimberly	Stevens, Donna Sue	Thetford, Mark Stevan
Schupman(McIntosh)Marquerite	Sloan, John A.	Stevens, Julia Ann	Theus, Lajeune Joann
Schwartz, Roger Blane	Sloan, Ladonna Kay	Stevens, Louise Marie	Thomas (Freeman,)Shirley A.
Scott(Battles)Barbara Maxine	Small, Aaron Michael	Stevens, Ronald Gene	Thomas(Toggle) Maurietta A.
Scott, Brummett Delray	Smalley, Gerald Dewayne	Stevens, Shannon Leigh	Thomas, Adam George
Scott, Gwendolyn June	Smith, Arlinda O.	Stevenson, Majel Lu	Thomas, Brandon Yvonne
Scott, Jerry Kevin	Smith, Brent Willis	Steward(Moore)Deborah D.	Thomas, Brenda Kay
Scott, Joe Mack	Smith (Baker), Cheryl Lynn	Stewart(Smith)Laura Elaine	Thomas, Carla Janine
Scott, Lena Mozelle	Smith, Clayton Allen	Stewart, Linda Sue	Thomas, Eddie Leroy
Scott, Lynn Eliot	Smith, Clint Allen	Stewart, Robert Frank	Thomas, Emmet Eugene
Scott, Mary Bell	Smith(Stephens)Bonnie R.	Stewart, Terresa Priscilla	Thomas, Kelly
Scott, Meredith	Smith, David Dale	Stice, Curtis Lynn	Thomas, Leslie Mack
Scott, Michael James	Smith, David Ray	Stidham, Susan Lynn	Thomas, Loretta Lynn
Scott, Nicholas Keith	Smith Jr. Donald Dale	Stockstell, Jennifer Page	Thomas, Lori Michelle
Scott, Mille Jean	Smith, Donald Dean	Stoebner, Terry Edward	Thomas, Thomas Lee
Scott, Reginald David	Smith, James W.	Stone, Jerry Leon	Thomas, Vanessa Kaye
Scott, Richard Wayne	Smith, Jan Elizabeth	Stowe, Connie Lee	Thomason, Rhonda Lynn
Scott, Roberta Sue	Smith(Washington)Jo Lynn	Stroble, Caroyn Sue	Thompson (Caesar)Franzetta
Scott (Adsit), Roby Patricia	Smith, Joe David	Stroble, Stephen Lee	Thompson Jr., Larry Don
Scott, Samuel Nathaniel	Smith, Kelly Sue	Stroble, Vernon Lee	Thompson Jr., Marshall



Tompkins, Jimmy Dell  
Toney (Juneau), Lisa Dawn  
Toombs, Jr., Louis Yancey  
Torbett, Russell Bryon  
Torix, Carolyn Lee  
Townsend, Rita Say  
Towry, Mark Alan  
Tozer, Karen Ann  
Treat, Christopher Anthony  
Trepp, Lance Mathew  
Trepp, Rhiannan Marie  
Trewin (Wood), Ellen Elaine  
Trott, Skylar Denise  
Truty (Pewel) Rebecca Marie  
Tucker, Braden Scott  
Tucker, Bryan Christopher  
Tucker, Dustin Michael  
Tucker, Jesse Scott  
Tulsa (Kelley) Gwendolyn A.  
Tulsa, Anthony  
Tulsa, Johnnie Marcia  
Tulsa, Jonathan  
Tunis, Loretta Jean  
Turner, Jack Dean  
Turner, Marian Loretta  
Turner, Timothy Lee  
Tuttell (Prince), Laurie L.  
Tuttle(Thompson) Melissa B  
Tuttle, Melissa Beth  
Twomey, Mona Marie  
Tyler, Eugene  
Tyler, Ira Louis  
Tyler, Karl Burgess  
Tyler, Karla Sue  
Tyler, Margaret Ann  
Tyler, Rosie Mae  
Tyon, Patricia Lee  
Underwood, Leah Charlene  
Underwood, Teresa Jeanne  
Unussee, Gregory  
Unussee, Nathan Jeffrey  
Upshaw (Colbert) Alicia M  
Van Cleave, Lucinda Lee  
Van Houndnac(Spear)Kathy L  
Van Straten, Sally Ann  
Van Straten, William Grant  
Van Woudenber, Barbara L.  
Vancil (Davis), Constance L.  
Vanderslice, Tammy Ann  
Vanzant (Smith), Donna J.  
Vasquez(Perryman)Maria  
Vasquez, Alice Marie  
Vasquez, Regina Lynn  
Vaughan, Craig Lee  
Vaughn (Barnett), Martha J.  
Vaughn (Smith), Saundra R.  
Vaughn(Boatman)Soundra D.  
Vaughn, Donnie Dale  
Vaughn, Etheleeta Christina  
Vaughn, Ida May  
Vaughn, Janna Rene  
Vaught, Tina Leann  
Verel, Debra Jo  
Verge, Kelly Alan  
Verge, Willis Howard  
Veteto, Mark Eugene  
Vian(Meeley)Cassandra Dee  
Vickers (Thornburgh), Rhana  
Vickery, Brenda Sue  
Villalba (Bowman), Diana  
Voils, Scotty Ray  
Voisine (Fish), Ramona Jane  
Voyles, Rocky Darrel  
Voyles, Sherry Lyn  
Vrazel(Tinney)Charlotte Gail  
Wacoche, Alex  
Wacoche, Brian Reuben  
Wacoche, Chebon  
Wacoche, Gerald Wayne  
Wacoche, Joanna Marie  
Wacoche, Melvin Leroy  
Wadsworth, Benny Richard  
Wadsworth, Jimmie Carlöss  
Wadsworth, John Patrick  
Wagenhauser, Michelle  
Wagner, Norma Jean  
Wahl, Betsy Jean  
Wakatani, Dorena Lee  
Walden, William Frazier  
Waldon, Cynthia Lou  
Waldon, Gary Fred  
Walker, Annie Mae  
Walker (Evans), Bobbie Sue  
Walker, Brandon James  
Walker, Elliott Lee  
Walker, Helen Marie  
Walker, Jennifer Jean  
Walker, John Arthur  
Walker, Michael Dale  
Walker, Robert Allen  
Walker, Robert Wayne  
Walker, Stella Marie  
Walker, Tommy Glenn  
Walkup, Sharon Kay

Wall Sr., Charles Ray  
Wallace Jr., Donald Algin  
Wallace, April Leigh  
Wallace, Everett Mark  
Wallace, Travis Dean  
Wallen, Michael Wayne  
Walls, Dana Michalle  
Walters(Brown)Margaret A.  
Walters, James Edward  
Walters, Linda Kay  
Walters, Roger Dale  
Walton (Mason), Hurldine  
Walton, Sandra Kay  
Walton, Talisha Rose  
Waquie, Jason Emarthelee  
Ward (Resoff), Juanita  
Ware, James Michael  
Ware, Johnny Anthony  
Ware, Patricia Ann  
Ware, Steven Eugne  
Warnock, Johnnie Orin  
Warren, Amanda Brooke  
Warren, Bonita Mae  
Warren, Stephen Tyler  
Warrington, Bobbi Juanita  
Warrior(Knight), Esther Jane  
Warrior(Wilkerson), Latreva  
Warrior, Daniel  
Warrior, Manuel  
Warrior, Tamera Len  
Washington, Angela Jo  
Washington, April Dawn  
Washington(Campbell) Betty  
Washington, Brutus Leon  
Washington, David Lee  
Washington, Donald Ray  
Washington, Donna Louise  
Washington, Gregory William  
Washington Jr., Joe  
Washington, Joseph Franklin  
Washington, Joseph Steven  
Washington, Olen Perry  
Washington, Thomas Ray  
Washington, Wallace Wiley  
Washington,LaMonte DeCarlo  
Wasson, Carla Jean  
Wasson, Cathy Lynn  
Wasson, Toby Allen  
Watashe, Andrew Wayne  
Watashe, Barney Leon  
Watashe, Beverly Ann  
Watashe, Charles Edward  
Watashe, Cleo Elvis  
Watashe, Cynthia Rose  
Watashe, Dana Gaylene  
Watashe, Debra Elaine  
Watashe, Debra Janice  
Watashe, Donna Kay  
Watashe, Donnell Marie  
Watashe, Felix Dee  
Watashe, Jerry Ray  
Watashe, John Wayne  
Watashe, Johnnn  
Watashe, Kenneth George  
Watashe JR., Louis Francis  
Watashe, Lurina  
Watashe, Marissa Michelle  
Watashe, Mary Jane  
Watashe, Michael Eugene  
Watashe, Natasha G.  
Watashe, Richard Gale  
Watashe, Russell Eugene  
Watashe, Shawn Rex  
Watashe, Shirley jean  
Watashe, Vincent Curtis  
Watashe, Wesley Levi  
Waterdown, Lisa Marie  
Waters, Dana Evelyn  
Watkins, Bernadette  
Watkins, Herbert Daniel  
Watkins, Janet Sue  
Watkins, Steven James  
Watson (Fish), Cora Lee  
Watson, Ashley Ann M.  
Watson, Felicia Louise  
Watson, Julian Blair  
Watson, Leiah Jean  
Watson, Mary Helen  
Watson, Neenah Jean  
Watson, Ruby Mae  
Watters, David Eugene  
Watts, Nathan Wayne  
Wauahdooah, Joanne  
Wawrzyniak, Rita Sue  
Weaver, Pamela Renee  
Webb Jr., Charles  
Webb, Harold Ray  
Webb, Joseph David  
Webb, Randy Hugh  
Webb, Richard Wayne  
Weber, Christopher  
Wehunt, Patrick Wayne  
Weins, Roy Lee  
Welche, Kami Leann

Wells (Dunn), Josephine  
Wells Jr., Watie Thomas  
Wells(Holleyman), Rosezena  
Wells, Lyle Ray  
Wesley, Laura Ann  
Wesley, Richard Victor  
Wesley, Rodney Gene  
West (Gray), Mesulta  
West (Pittman), Cheryl Ann  
West, Barbara Ann  
West, Billie Bob  
West, Blaine Nelson  
West, Brandon Anthony  
West, Heather  
West, Michelle Leigh  
West, Russell Ethan  
Westbrook, Lori Gayle  
Westbrook, Stephen Michael  
Wheeler, Jennifer Renee  
Wheeler, Kevin Earl  
Wheeler, Roy Joe  
Whisenhunt, Cheryl Diane  
White, Andrew Jay  
White, Ava Jo  
White, Byron Layden  
White, Diane Lea  
White (Allen) Fay Ann  
White, Randall Dean  
White, Raymond Craig  
White (Coffee), Sara Ann  
White (Brown), Sandra Kay  
White, Sherman William  
White, Wilma Gean  
Whitecotton, John  
Whitehead, Billie Jo  
Whitehorn, Steven Dale  
Whitetree, Virginia S.  
Whitfield, Shelia Beth  
Whitley, Rebecca Donna  
Whitlow, James Ashley  
Whitlow, Jennifer Lea  
Whitlow, Johnny Louis  
Whitlow, Tirell Franklin  
Whitlow, Travis John  
Whitlow, Wendell Wayne  
Whitman, Richard Ray  
Whitmire, Angela Lynn  
Whitson, Eddie Floyd  
Whitson, Jeffrey Neal  
Wilbanks Jr., Chester Harold  
Wilbanks, Dennis Wayne  
Wilber, Karin Sue  
Wilbourne, Deborah Lynn  
Wildcat, Richard Bryan  
Wildcat, Robert Estol  
Wiley, Janette Lee  
Wilkerson, Emily Ann  
Wilkerson, Mona Marie  
Wilkins(Chambers)Sarah R.  
Wilkins, Kenneth Ray  
Wilkinson (Billy), Patsy Jo  
Williams, Calvin Rogers  
Williams, Cara Danelle  
Williams, Clastina Dannette  
Williams, Connie Lynn  
Williams, David Eugene  
Williams, David Irvan  
Williams, Helen  
Williams, Jeremy Paul  
Williams, Jeryl Ray  
Williams, Marty Ray  
Williams, Nikita Kay  
Williams, Phillip Melvin  
Williams(Johnson)Ramona  
Williams, Ronald Dean  
Williams, Ronald Lynn  
Williams, Scott Brian  
Williams(Voice)Sherry Jean  
Williamson, Lena Mae  
Williamson, Paula Sue  
Willie, Katherine Lucille  
Willie, Tooskey Sam  
Willis (Bird), Cheryl Diane  
Wills, Susan Elaine  
Wilmott, Theron Neil  
Wilson, Allison Ann  
Wilson, Anita Lynn  
Wilson, Charlotte Arlene  
Wilson, Eric Kevin  
Wilson(Manley)Fredericka J.  
Wilson, Gerald David  
Wilson, Irene Sue  
Wilson, Jimmie  
Wilson, Katherine LaVerne  
Wilson, Kathleen Faye  
Wilson, Kenneth Phillip  
Wilson II, Kenneth Thomas  
Wilson, Laura Charlene  
Wilson, Marsha Lynne  
Wilson II, Otis Allen  
Wilson, Simon Leroy  
Wilson, Todd Alan  
Wilson, Walter Bruce  
Wind, Miley Michelle

Wind, Ronald  
Wind, Thomas Kirk  
Windell (Smoot), Linda A.  
Windes, John Spencer  
Wingate, Phyllis Lynn  
Winkle, Marietta Elcia  
Winn, Anniel Dewayne  
Winn, Dannie Jo  
Winn, Lyndsi Noele  
Winn, Tommy Dean  
Winters, Clarisa Ann  
Winters, Glen Nelson  
Winters, Michael Leroy  
Winters, Ronnie Gale  
Winters, Ryan Lance  
Winters, William Scott  
Wisdom, Michael John  
Wisdon, Russell Matthew  
Wise, Sallie Mae  
Wisner II, Michael Patrick  
Withers Jr., John Wesley  
Withers(Sewell) Barbara A.  
Withers, Travis Wayne  
Wolf (Tompkins), Wanda  
Wolf, Warren Glenn  
Wolfe, Kevin Jay  
Wood, Cynthia Karen  
Wood, Kenneth Wayne  
Wood, Leah Jeanine  
Wood, Steve Melvin  
Woodard, Tonkawa T.  
Woodfield, Samuel Mark  
WoodFork, Curtis Eugene  
Woodfork, Margaret Ann  
Woodruff, Danny Doug  
Woodson (Long), Sandra Kay  
Woodward, James Harvey  
Woody, Ronnie Wayne  
Woody, Ross Franklin  
Wooten, Dennis Kari  
Wooten, Donald James  
Wooten, Norman Jean  
Workizer(Harjo)Patsy Pauline  
Worth, Johnathan Charles  
Worthington(Hale)Patti M.  
Wright, Howard Vernon  
Wright, James Ray  
Wright, Jerri Dawn  
Wright, Cathy Joann  
Wright, Mark Ryan  
Wright, Michael Dotson  
Wright, Patricia Josephine  
Wright, Robert Wayne  
Wright, Teddy Lee  
Wright, Thomas Eugene  
Wright, Vincent Gene  
Wyatt, Brian Kelly  
Yahola, Annie Lahoya  
Yahola, Anthony Edmond  
Yahola, Barry Eugene  
Yahola, Christopher Louis  
Yahola, Cindy Sue  
Yahola, James Alonzo  
Yahola, Jason  
Yahola, Jeffery  
Yahola, Jeffrey Lynn  
Yahola, Jonas Ray  
Yahola, Jonathan David  
Yahola (Deere), Juanita C.  
Yahola, Kenneth Wayne  
Yahola, Kerri Danelle  
Yahola, Kevin Lance  
Yahola, Lewis  
Yahola, Maurice  
Yahola, Michael  
Yahola, Sammie William  
Yahola, Timothy Eric  
Yahola, Virginia Sue  
Yancey, Yannah Mae  
Yarbrough(Cobb)Linda F.  
Yardy, Roosevelt  
Yargee, Alexander Lee  
Yargee, Amon Eugene  
Yargee, Christoher Lymon  
Yargee, Joshua Dale  
Yargee, Marilyn Sue  
Yates, Joyce Lee  
Yeatman, Darla Ann  
Yingling (Cole), Iva Louise  
York, Billy Jack  
York, Bobby Don  
York, Jimmy Doyle  
York, Tony Ryan  
Young, Amy Michelle  
Young (Myers), Cynthia Jo  
Young, Elizabeth Ann  
Young Jr., Roy  
Young, Sandra Lynn  
Young, Stephen Wayne  
Young, Tommy Lee  
Young, Tonya Leigh  
Zech (Keene), Rita Ann  
Zellner, Wanda June  
Zemeno (Harjo), Gwendolyn

## 2013 election information

**Media Release**  
*MCN Election Board*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Election Board has released information for the upcoming 2013 elections.

MCN National Council Representatives are elected every four years. Seats A & B are staggered. Seat B in all eight districts are up for election this year 2013.

A candidate information fair will be held July 10 from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. at a location yet to be determined. This session is for citizens and present Council members intending to file as candidates for MCN National Council seat B.

The following is a list of key dates and information regarding the election:

Candidate filing will be from July 15-17 at 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at the tribal confrence room on the tribal complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

The primary election will be Sept. 21 and the General Election will be Nov. 2. and a \$200 filing fee must be provided through money order or cashier check. Personal checks will not be accepted.

**Qualifications:**

Must be one-quarter or more Muscogee (Creek)

Must be 18-years-old or older

Must be an enrolled tribal citizen

Must have resided in the tribal jurisdiction for one full calander year and provide proof of said residency

Must be a tribal registered voter six months prior to filing as a candidate

No felony within the last 10 years, (a background check will be conducted)

**When filing as a candidate you will need the following:**

Tribal enrollment card

Voter’s card

Filing Fee in money order or cashier check form

Documentation verifying one years residency.

**Documentation must be any three of the items listed below:**

Driver’s License

Income tax return for preceding year

Copy of Homestead Exemption

Copy of House Deed or statement from MCN Housing Authority containing dates of residency

If renting; a notarized statement from the landlord containing dates of residency

Utility Bill in Candidate’s name

The address must be the same on all documents and must contain the name of the candidate.





# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## CMN celebrates fifth graduating class

Commencement ceremony held for CMN class of 2013

Sterling Cospoer / MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) held a commencement ceremony April 26 for the college's 2013 graduating class at the CMN campus in Okmulgee, Okla.

CMN President Robert Bible welcomed attendees and introduced CMN Board of Regents Chair Ramona Mason who provided words of encouragement to the graduates.

"Today is your day. You're the star today because of the work that you have done, because of your dedication and your perseverance," Mason said.

Dwight Pickering, Director of Indian Education for the State of Oklahoma commended the college during his commencement address for the ceremony.

"Look at what you've done here. No other tribal college has this. Congratulations on your graduation this year," Pickering said.



MNN/Sterling Cospoer

The College of the Muscogee Nation's (CMN) fifth graduating class April 26 during the CMN 2013 Commencement Ceremony.

He also stressed the furtherance of this accomplishment.

"We need more funding for education; we need more funding for language," Pickering said. "We should not have any barriers for the Creek and Euchee people because society has put barriers there for us. Now we are going to

teach our own."

CMN student Rachael Sourjohn addressed attendees as the student respondent for the ceremony.

According to CMN Tribal Services Instructor Allan Colbert, Sourjohn was chosen by the CMN selection committee to represent this year's graduates because of

her positive outlook, academic persistence and adherence to the college's core values.

Sourjohn incorporated these values into her address along with the CMN mission statement, 'preserving the past, cultivating futures.'

SEE GRADS - 3

## Violence Prevention Program observes Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Presentation and support walk held for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Gary Fife / MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Family Violence Prevention Program conducted the Fifth Annual Sexual Assault Awareness Walk and presentation April 30 at the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Shawn Partridge, Manager of the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program was inspired by the show of support given by the tribe.

"We're really excited and hop-



MNN/Gary Fife

Men put their best foot forward April 30 as they prepare to 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' during the Sexual Assault Awareness Walk.

ing that this is going to be the biggest and best yet. Last year, we had 170 participants, so we're really excited. It's growing each year."

According to Partridge, the increase in attention paid to this issue shows growth.

"All of the work we're doing in

terms of providing community education to our citizens definitely is going to increase awareness of sexual violence," she said. "It's going to increase the awareness as far as the services that are available and we have seen an increase in the number of calls that we get from victims."

Her program has already seen an increase in demand for services.

"We're working more cases, not only involving adult victims, but child victims as well," Partridge said. "It's very challenging work but at the same time, I think we're doing an awesome job as far as supporting these families and individuals as they go through the healing process and the criminal justice aspect."

An important part of the success, Partridge felt, was due to changing attitudes towards sexual violence, which she feels her program has had an impact on as well.

"Definitely, since they know this service is available.

SEE AWARENESS - 2

MAY 15, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 9  
"KEHVSE"  
MULBERRY MONTH



Tiger delivers report at National Council quarterly session

Sterling Cospoer  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Principal Chief George Tiger gave his quarterly report April 27 during a Quarterly Session of the MCN National Council.

During this presentation, Tiger gave progress updates on several tribal projects and programs including the MCN Division of Health.

"Just recently the Okemah City Council voted to enter into negotiations with the Nation for property in Okemah," he said. "The Department of Health has selected a Creek home architect firm to begin designing the new construction of Creek Nation community hospital."

Tiger reported that the MCN Food Distribution Program in conjunction with the MCN Department of Health and Human Services, submitted and Indian Community Development Block Grant for a new distribution center in Coweta, Okla.

"So that we will be able to balance out the need for distribution," Tiger said.

According to Tiger, the MCN Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) has certified 17 companies to be part of the program.

He commented on the progress of the Creek Nation Council House.

"Museum and Cultural Center Curator John Beaver reports that the museum program has been actively developing a rehabilitation and restoration plan for the Creek Council House," Tiger said.

SEE COUNCIL - 3





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**MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

## Graduate edition deadline set for Friday, May 17

**Sterling Cosper**  
*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee Nation News will be featuring 2013 Muscogee (Creek) Nation graduates in an upcoming summer edition.

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground, church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 word limit).

A recent digital photo should also be included with graduate's information, which must be submitted via email no later than Friday, May 17.

Submissions should be sent to [gfive@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:gfive@mcn-nsn.gov). For more information, please contact Gary Fife at 918-732-7643.

# MCN women honored by OFIW



MNN/Gary Fife  
Muscogee (Creek) 2013 Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women recipients; ( L to R): Dr. Lahoma Schultz; Shirlene Ade; Lauren Lowe; and Faith Harjo.

## Native Women's group names honorees for 2013

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

NEWKIRK, Okla.—Four of the nine 2013 Oklahoma Federation Of Indian Women (OFIW) award-winners are Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

The women were recognized at the OFIW statewide Honor Banquet May 3 at the First Council Casino Event Center.

During the banquet, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dr. Lahoma Schultz was presented with Mary Townsend Crow Service award; Shirlene Ade, a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council received the Helen Chupco Leadership award; Faith Harjo was honored with the American Indian Mother of the Year award and Lauren Lowe was the recipient of the Georgeann Robinson Humanitarian award.

According to the OFIW website, the organization was established in 1969 for the advancement of the economic and social welfare of the American Indian, development of education and cultural programs, preservation of Indian culture and traditions and to portray the true image of the American Indian. The Federation began the Miss Indian Oklahoma pageant in 1973.

One main objective of the awards is to facilitate exposure and participation for Native American women, as well as the general public. The event is coordinated by an all-volunteer group made up of Native women from many tribes.

As an elected official, Ade said the award gave her a mixed set of emotions. She added that she learned some very important facts about Helen Chupco in whose honor the award is named.

“She was very compassionate. She had a lot of compassion for the Creek people, our citizens and she was very passionate about her job on the council to help our citizens anyway she could. I was very honored and I hope that I live up to the same standards.”

Ade was pleased to see the progress Native women were making in assuming leadership roles.

“For centuries, Native women, they’ve been treated as second-class citizens. They didn’t have the opportuni-

ties that the men had to be legislators or to go to school. Their job was mainly in the home, which was extremely important. It’s the women, I feel, that are the backbone, not only of our country and nation but of the Creek nation. It’s your mothers and aunts that get the children up for school. They get them up for Sunday school; they take them places. I just feel like the women of the Creek nation have come a long way. We’re legislators now. A lot of our Creek citizens are school-teachers. They’re social workers. They really do a lot of good work in our nation. Not just in our nation but all over Oklahoma.”

Harjo was excited and honored to win the American Indian Mother of the Year award. A good portion of the credit, she said, was because of her faith.

“That is focused on caring for your children, loving them. Also, one thing that my mama always instilled in me was to love God, love the Creator, honor him. I think whenever your heart and your mind are in the right place with God, then all the other things can fall into place underneath that.”

“I think that any kind of recognition is good to have whenever you’re doing a good job. It sort of instills confidence in yourself but also, it can be a standard that other people could live up to.”

The 24-year-old single mother is both parent and mother. The job of being a single mother, Harjo said, was made easier by support from her family.

“I think it is a little bit different. I don’t have a partner to help me, but the thing that I’m blessed with is that I have my family. My mom takes care of my son while I’m in school during the daytime; my sisters help me; my dad helps by taking care of us financially. So, there still is a lot of support and sometimes I think it is a little bit harder. But, I don’t think that older Indian mothers would say it’s harder. They would say, ‘Oh, you have it easy, you don’t have to walk in the snow’—you know, things like that.”

Harjo attends Oral Roberts University and is pursuing a degree in Biological Science before going into a pre-med program.

Schultz is from Enid, Okla. and is a psychology professor at Oklahoma State University. She was given the Mary Townsend Crow award for the outstanding person who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve and

benefit.

For Schultz, the award presentation made her feel blessed for a couple of reasons.

“I really feel blessed that I’ve had people to encourage me to continue my education and professional people encouraging me in this profession. I’m blessed to have a husband that supports me.

Schultz said she works to help Indian people of all tribes.

“I think I bring my knowledge and experience with Indian people in general. I’m full blood, a member of the Creek nation. On the other hand, I’ve been brought up among various tribes so I feel comfortable working with whatever tribe I happen to be working with.”

Schultz is happy to see that the role of Native women has been evolving over the last couple of decades, from being the supportive keepers of the household to leaders of tribes and national organizations.

“It means a lot to me to see that out on a national level, state level. I’d one day like to see an Indian woman being governor of Oklahoma. I think we’re not too far away from that as long as the Indian people would support somebody to get to that level.”

Lowe was the recipient of the Georgeann Robinson Humanitarian award from

the OFIW.

Recently married, she said her name was now Lauren Lowe-Thompson.

She called the award, ‘amazing.’

“This was an amazing honor. I honestly couldn’t believe I was selected for it. I had to read the email twice. It was just an incredible feeling just to know that people thought of me enough to nominate me for this award.”

Lowe had just finished a three-year enlistment with the U.S. Air Force, serving overseas at a base in Japan as a calibration technician.

Such awards for Indian women, Lowe felt, were important to provide recognition and uplift the self-image of Native women.

“Sometimes, I think we don’t think we can do all the things that we see others doing. It’s important that we do have organizations such as the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women to show that there are strong people in our communities. We just need to get out there and try to do all that we can, so that we can help younger generations and give them someone that they can look up to.”

Later that evening, the OFIW held its annual powwow to honor the outgoing royalty, Brittany Morgan-Hill, 2012-13 Miss Indian Oklahoma and Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma, Jasa Lightfoot. Morgan-Hill belongs to Yankton Sioux tribe of Marty, S.D. and the MCN.

## AWARENESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They’re becoming more aware of the work that we do and how we can support survivors of sexual violence. Our numbers are going up.”

They’re reaching out and they’re feeling comfortable to call. They’re not feeling like they are the only one and feeling comfortable that help is available,” she said.

The event’s keynote speaker was Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Sarah Deer, Associate Professor at the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minn. Deer was selected by U.S. Attorney General, Eric Holder to chair the federal advisory committee for tribal communities at the Office for Victims of Crime.

Deer counted the signing of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and its tribal provisions as a step forward but cautioned that there was much more to do.

“The last year in particular we’ve seen a number of successes including the Violence Against Women Act. There’s still a long way to go in tribal communities but now that there’s national attention to the issues. I think it’s going to be better for advocates to make change at the local level.”

She acknowledged the positive aspects of the passage but pointed out that the act was not a complete remedy.

“I think it is a definite good step in the right direction. It doesn’t address all of the issues in Indian Country,” Deer said. “I think the more important thing is that Congress finally stepped up to the plate and admitted that there needed to be more done.”

In her keynote address, Deer spoke of the kinds of language that are involved and how that was important in aiding a victim of sexual assault.

“Words stay with you. A survivor of sexual assault also experi-

ences the abusive words from the perpetrator, not just the act; it’s also the words.”

She added that certain phrases are to be avoided in working with victims.

“Things like ‘you should’ or ‘you would have’ or ‘why didn’t you’ or ‘why shouldn’t you’ or ‘in order to be safe, you should have.’ All of those things can re-victimize somebody who’s been a victim of sexual assault,” Deer said.

Deer also suggested language that she believes has a more positive impact.

“Instead, there is other language that we can use that is much or helpful to survivors,” she said. “Things like ‘it’s not your fault.’ In fact, that’s the number one thing that I think needs to be said to survivors over and over and over again, is that ‘it’s not your fault.’ It’s the fault of the person who committed the crime. I can tell you, as a survivor, that was a sentence that I couldn’t hear enough.”

Deer emphasized that although great challenges remain, her research found that there is some good news to be shared. She said, historically, Muscogee people have done a pretty good job over the years of protecting women and children through written laws.

She mentioned that three Muscogee (Creek) women were present March 6 during the signing of VAWA by U.S. President Barack Obama. Deer, Partridge and Cherrah Giles, MCN Secretary of Community and Human Services attended a ceremony for the signing at The White House in Washington, D.C.

After the program, participants formed up for the Sexual Assault Awareness Walk at the tribal complex. Several men in the crowd donned women’s footwear to “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.”



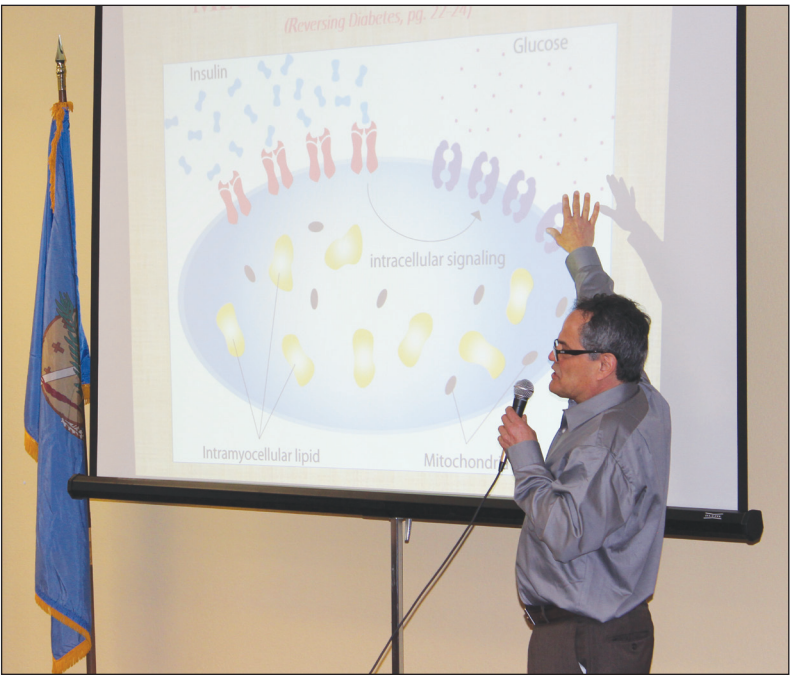
# Symposium teaches tribal citizens healthy lifestyles

## Cooking demonstrations promote plant-based diets

Darren DeLaune  
MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE, Okla. – A Native Foods and Health Symposium sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Food and Fitness Policy Council was held April 26-27 at the MCN Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center.

This two-day event focused on incorporating healthy and traditional foods into everyday living. During the symposium, seminars were held regarding healthy foods. This included luncheons and tastings as well as demonstrations on food preparation and cooking. Chefs from Red Mesa Cuisine out of Santa Fe, N.M. made plant-based traditional foods during the demonstrations.



Presenter Marc Anderson speaks to tribal citizens about plant-based diets during the Native Foods and Health Symposium April 26 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition Center.

Darrell Fox, Executive Director of the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative talked about the event.

“This is a two-day health seminar over healthy native foods,” Fox said. “Among the

things that we are having are food demonstrations from different guests that we brought in from around the country. They are not going to only talk about healthy living and cultural food but demonstrate how to prepare

those also.”

Marc Anderson held a seminar on plant-based foods and how to place healthy food back in your diet.

“Diabetes is a major problem among Native Americans,” Anderson said. “Saturated fats are one of the main causes of Type 2 diabetes. If you reduce saturated fats in your diet, you can reverse Type 2 conditions without medication. If you can scale back and eventually stop eating animal products and go to a plant-based diet, you can cure yourself of diabetes and lots of other ailments.”

Anderson recommended a resource for learning about this lifestyle. “For more of a reference to learning how to get on a plant-based diet, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), has a lot of menus, training materials, recipes and information on how to eat this way.

For more information on PCRM, visit their website at [www.pcrm.org](http://www.pcrm.org).

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tiger stated that a master plan for the Riverwalk is moving forward as well.

“Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise CEO Woody Anderson reports that the master plan for Riverwalk is continuing. 1Architecture is finishing phase one for review,” he said.

He announced that Pinot Pallette held a grand opening ceremony April 26-27, for the self-described wine and painting franchise’s new Riverwalk location and that several other businesses had expressed interest in leasing at the property.

Tiger also alluded to a development plan in progress for the Okmulgee Country Club.

“MNBE is working on an agreement with Billy Casper Golf to manage the country club,” he said.

After Tiger’s report, the MCN National Council addressed the Council’s order of business.

- NCR 13-001 Authorizing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council to enter into a historical service consulting agreement. Said agreement will allow the Council to provide timely, expeditious, accurate, independent information and recommendations for their adoption of legislation regarding the expansion of the Okmulgee National monument and incorporation of the Okmulgee Old Fields traditional cultural property and other related significant cultural properties and sites by the National Park Service. Rep. Eddie LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-039 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the MCN Alabama Quassarte, Kialegee and Thlopthlocco Tribal Towns for the method of allocating the Nation’s proportional share of funding for housing and urban development funds and the Indian House Block Grant. Rep. Lena Wind sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-040 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation and the Indian Health Service (IHS) for the employment of Sidney B. Daniel as commissioned personnel for the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Pearl Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-041 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement to inspect a tribal child care facility with the Oklahoma Office of the State Fire Marshal. Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-042 Supporting the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program for fiscal year 2013 in submissions to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service Administration’s Children and Family Grant Program for Domestic Violence Shelters/Grants for/to Native American Tribes. Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-043 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and architect and to establish general conditions for a construction contract with 1Architecture for architectural and engineering services for the Okemah Hospital Project. Wind sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-045 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a separate memorandums of understanding with six Oklahoma counties for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associate right-of-ways constructed or improved by the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-046 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with the IHS and the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the provision of satisfactory domestic water supply, waste water disposal and interior plumbing facilities for Indian homes in Creek, Hughes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- tion, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-047 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease with the U.S. Department of the Army, through the real estate division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Fountainhead Golf Course. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 11-6 with Reps. Dode Barnett, Frank Coachman, David Hill, Robert Hufft, Kara Media and David Nichols voting against it.
  - TR 13-048 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety Administrator of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunications System Division. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
  - TR 13-049 Confirming the nomination of Selina Jayne-Dornan as a part-time gaming commissioner of the MCN Office of Public Gaming. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 9-8 with Reps. Johnnie Greene, Keeper Johnson, Pete Beaver, Barnett, Hill, LaGrone, Nichols and Randolph voting against it.
  - TR 13-051 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property in Hughes County. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
  - TR 13-052 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 96 acres of tribal property located in Okmulgee County. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-078 Appropriating \$5,001,000 to the MCN Department of Health Contract Health Services to fund the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2013. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-079 Authorizing a donation of \$25,000 to the Jim Thorpe Native American Games as a presenting sponsor. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-080 Authorizing a donation to the Council of Holdenville American

- Indian Alumni. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-4 with Barnett, Hufft, Johnson and Randolph voting against it.
- NCA 13-081 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$571.86 to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-082 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$182,400 to the MCN Department of Education and Training Tribal Employment Rights Office for fiscal year 2013. Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-083 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$113,000 to the post-graduate education and scholarship revolving fund. Reps. Sam Alexander, Johnson, Medina, and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-085 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$6,641 to the Checotah Indian Community. Proctor, Wind and Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-086 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$250 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-087 Authorizing a donation of \$5,462 to Beggs Public Schools. Thomas, Coachman and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-088 Authorizing a donation of \$1,500 to the Henryetta High School Band to assist six Muscogee (Creek) students with costs associated with the band’s performance in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-089 Requesting the secretary of the interior to convey title of certain lands to the surviving original siblings of Paul Jones. LaGrone, Hill, Proctor and Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-090 Authorizing a supplemental appro-

- priation of \$77,511 for the MCN Tribal Construction Department. Beaver, Greene, Randolph, Thomas, Wind, Coachman, Nichols and Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-093 Amending MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 48 entitled “Worker’s Compensation.” Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-094 Amending MCNCA, Title 37, Section 2-123 entitled “Este Cate Veterans (Mvskoke Nation) Honor Guard.” Reps. Thomas Yahola and Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0 with Yahola abstaining.
  - NCA 13-095 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$33,580 to Grave Creek Indian Baptist Church. Nichols and Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-097 Authorizing a donation of \$5,000 to the North American Indian Tennis Association. Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-3 with Hufft, Johnson and Medina voting against it.
  - NCA 13-100 Authorizing a donation of \$250 to Native Youth Preventing Diabetes. Hufft, Beaver, Wind, Thomas and Green sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
  - NCA 13-101 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$337 to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.

GRADS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“A more encompassing statement could not be said about the education given here,” Sourjohn said. “This college doesn’t just teach us what’s on the syllabus, it also instills something more important, values and you can see that in every student you see before you.”

She expanded on these values.

“We have vrakkuecky, respect for the education we have been given, the culture we are engrossed in, our families that support us and our ourselves as students.

“Mecvlke, responsibility to make sure the traditions we hold close are passed on to those behind us.

“Hoporenky, wisdom of our ancestors and our elders for when we start to think we run the show by ourselves; they are quick to remind us of eyaskety, humility, because we didn’t just come here on our own; we have come here together,” Sourjohn said.

Sourjohn acknowledged her classes’ hard work, invited them to celebrate and looked toward the future.

“I can’t believe how far we’ve come,” she said. “Today we say goodbye to this institution that has been our home for two years but as they say, ‘when one door closes the other opens’ and I know this class has many doors open.”

In closing, Sourjohn shared the words of the late Cherokee Nation Chief Wilma Mankiller.

“The secret to our success is that we never, never give up,” she said.



# Arbor Care cuts the job down to size

## Crews serve tree-cutting needs of MCN

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

WETUMPKA, Okla.— Within a couple of hours the buzzing chainsaw would soon reduce a dead tree to a few stumps and wood chips.

This describes a typical job of Arbor Care Services, a subsidiary of Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Department of Risk Management as they respond to a request from a Muscogee Creek citizen April 18 in Wetumpka, Okla.

This assignment was just one of many different tasks the Arbor Care team tackles in a typical week, according to Phil Booker, MCN Risk Management Manager. The service is charged with assisting MCN citizens throughout the 11 county tribal jurisdiction.

“Our main goal,” Booker explained, “is to keep (electric) services lines to homes clear of limbs and overhangs, things over the roofs of homes



MNN/Gary Fife

MCN Arbor Care Services crew begins work on dead tree for MCN citizen April 18 in Wetumpka, Okla.

that could damage the structures during high winds or ice storm type events. Access to and from roads, in case they have food coming in, home health care or any other emergency vehicles that might need to get into the homes.”

He explained the reasoning behind their efforts.

“We’re trying to mitigate all of our tribal properties and Creek citizens homes so we don’t have a lot of damage or

a lot of costs when we do have events such as high winds, ice storms or things that could cause the tree limbs to block access or damage or tribal properties,” Booker said.

When they are not responding to weather-related emergencies, Arbor Services answers calls from tribal citizens who want help with removal of trees or fallen limbs that might present problems.

According to Booker, with-

in Wetumpka, Okla., there were three sites that required preventative removal or trimming of trees.

“There are three different residences right here within a two block radius. There are dead trees that have limbs that are falling off. Anytime that we have just a slight wind, much less a strong wind, we worry about them falling on cars, homes, kids, citizens. So we’re removing the trees all the way down to the ground.”

Trimmers will start at the bottom of a tree and proceed from the outside towards the trunk. This technique allows limbs cut from the top of the tree to fall all the way to the ground and not get hung up in other limbs on the way down.

Smaller limbs are cut from the ends for easy handling and to allow trimmers easier access to the larger parts of the limbs. The crews will continue in this manner until the trunk is safely felled and cut up for disposal.

The spring high wind season does not make a real difference in Arbor Care’s workload.

Booker said that they would be busy all year round, dealing with requests from property owners, the MCN and other municipalities within the Nation’s jurisdiction. In the winter they deal with ice storms and during the storm season or emergency situations, the Arbor Care crews could be called out to assist other emergency responders.

A request for service from a tribal citizen will generate a work order. The MCN Geospatial (GIS) department will map the location and conduct an assessment of the property. The GIS review is important, Booker noted, so that jobs will be grouped geographically allowing the Arbor Service to save time and fuel when they are working in a particular district.

Each request site will be examined to determine how much labor is involved, what equipment and expertise is needed and how crews can be assigned for maximum efficiency. The assessment dictates what the job needs, Booker explained.

“The assessments tell us the variables the job will consist of... whether it’s a dead tree or not...how many hours the job might take... whether it’s going to be a climbing job or a bucket truck job... an eight-plus hour job, a multi-day job; what equipment we need to have there.”

The rural areas of the MCN create a more difficult situation. There are usually no addresses to verify locations and rural road conditions can be problems for heavy equipment, especially during bad weather. Booker remembered having to call on the MCN Tribal Driveways Department to assist in pulling a truck out of the mud.

To handle the task, Booker has two crews. One is a ‘climbing’ crew and one uses a ‘bucket truck.’ The entire team has been trained and certified to climb trees. The service has two bucket trucks and two chippers that can go out on jobs.

Arbor Care team members undergo specialized training to use the equipment and receive instruction in avoiding hazards and climbing techniques. They are also educated in dealing with power lines safely, traffic control and complying with inspections for their equipment.

The team is made up of mostly MCN citizens who learned skills from their fathers. This includes informal and in-depth education on the types of trees, how brittle the wood may be and the uses of the wood for fires.

A team made of local men has its advantages, including familiarity with rural areas.

“They use the GPS but they don’t need it. They know where the landmarks are, ‘turn left at this store, or whatever,’ they know where that store is,” said Booker. “They’re well versed in the areas they’re working in. Plus, they know the citizens. There might be someone’s cousins’ grandma or whatever. It’s the clan part of the tribe; everybody knows everybody.”

Unforeseen hazards of the job do occur. Supervisor Dustin Cloud recalls the occasional canine encounter.

“Especially during the summertime. These guys walk out into a backyard to make sure we don’t do any property damage. At times the homeowners don’t let us know they’ve got a dog back there or they’ve got another mean dog,” Cloud said. “We’ve walked around there and sure enough, that dog has chased us out of the yard. We get scattered quite a bit sometimes. Sometimes somebody might come up and pinch your leg and sound like a dog and everybody scatters again. Yeah, it gets kind of intense at times.”

To place a request with Arbor Care Services, contact Risk Management Analyst Sylvia Tulsa at: 918-732-7795.

## MCN citizen swims her way to state victories

### Barker named 2013 Tulsa World All-Metro Girls Swimmer of the Year

**Darren DeLaune**  
*MNN Contributor*

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. – Tadpoles are born in the water and learn to swim on instinct.

This seems to be the case with MCN citizen Breonna Barker who was in the water before she could walk.

“I started swimming at a daycare I think when I was around eight,” Breonna Barker said. “The coach at the daycare saw me swimming and asked if I wanted to be on the team. My dad told me before I could even walk, I was already in the pool and that is how I learn to love the water. He also said I didn’t swim on top of the water, I wanted to swim under the water.”

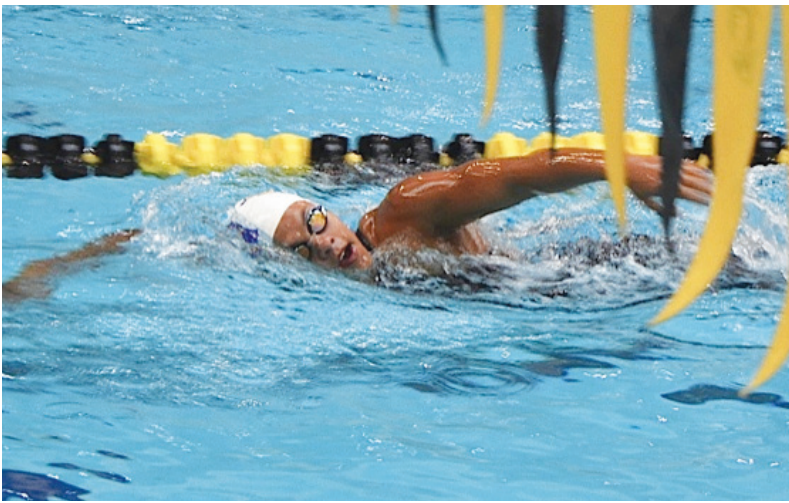
A sophomore sensation from Broken Arrow High School, she has built on this raw talent from her days as a toddler with the help of coaching from Swim Tulsa’s Dave Lynn.

For this season, she won two state championships in the 100 and 50-meter freestyle competitions.

“It is awesome because I dropped my time in both events,” Breonna Barker said. “I was very close to the state record in both events this year. I am still dropping my times. So next year my goal is to try and break the state records.”

The Broken Arrow High School’s swimming season usually goes from October to February, and she also participates in meets through Swim Tulsa away from school. She swims year round.

“My mornings begin at 4:45



Submitted/Chris Barker

Muscogee (Creek) swimmer Breonna Barker was named 2013 All-Metro Swimmer of the Year by the Tulsa World.

a.m.,” Breonna Barker said. “I get ready for practice. We run but every other day we will swim in the mornings. This practice starts at 5-7 a.m. After that, I go to school, which is at 8 a.m. We will have our school practices at 2 p.m. and that goes to 3:40 p.m. Then I come here (Swim Tulsa). Our practices begin at 4:15-6:15 p.m. Then I go to work from 6:15-6:45p.m. After that I will go home, do my homework and start all over again the next day.”

She knew and understood from an early age that it was going to take a lot of hard work to be successful at this sport and that morning and after school practices were going to be the norm.

“There are times when I feel really tired and I feel like I don’t want to do anything or talk to anyone,” Breonna Barker said. “I have to keep pushing myself. I am two years away from college and I know that if I keep getting better, the best colleges will want me.”

Because of Breonna Barker’s incredible season, the Tulsa World named her the All-Metro Girls Swimmer of the Year for 2013.

“It felt really good,” she said. “Not only winning state but

also this; it is amazing. It is a great accomplishment. I have always known the swimmer of the year to be a senior so winning it as a sophomore was a great surprise.”

Swim Tulsa coach Lynn had nothing but great things to say about her.

“Two state championships speak for themselves,” Lynn said. “She keeps improving. She knows there are more things to do. That is one thing that keeps us going. She wants to improve so we will keep pushing and training her and she will push herself to improve.”

Her father Chris Barker shares Lynn’s sentiments, “Very excited and happy for her. She has put in a lot of work. She knows it is not going to be easy but she knows she can be successful through all the hard work and effort that she is putting in.”

Breonna Barker knows that children are looking up to and want to swim like her. She offered advice to the younger generation.

“Follow your dreams,” she said. “Be what you want to be and stick with it. Don’t ever doubt yourself. Anything can happen when you set your goals and put your mind to it.”







# PROTECTING THE FUTURE



## MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Behavioral Health Services  
[www.creekhealth.org](http://www.creekhealth.org)  
1 (888) 756-4333



## 2013 SENIOR GAMES & SYMPOSIUM FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013

### AGENDA

- 8:00-9:00AM REGISTRATION  
(Light Breakfast)
- 8:40-9:00 FITNESS WALK
- 9:10-10:00 1<sup>ST</sup> BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- 10:10-11:00 2<sup>ND</sup> BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- 11:00-12:00 LUNCH
- 12:10-1:00 FREE THROW CONTEST
- 1:10-2:00 HORSESHOES/DARTS
- 2:10-3:00 SOFTBALL THROW/JACKS  
(AWARDS GIVEN FOR 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, & 3<sup>RD</sup>  
PLACE IN EACH EVENT)



SPONSORED BY: MCN SENIOR  
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DIABETES PROGRAMS

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
DIABETES PREVENTION  
SUICIDE PREVENTION  
WILLS & PROBATES  
NUTRITION

### LOCATION

COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION  
1200 LOOP 56  
OKMULGEE, OK

Free t-shirts to  
the first 100  
Muscogee Creek  
Seniors to  
register!  
MCN Citizenship  
card required and  
must be 55

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
CHRISTY CARSON AT 918-732-7765  
[CCARSON@MCN-NSN.GOV](mailto:CCARSON@MCN-NSN.GOV)



MAY IS NATIVE AMERICAN ELDERS MONTH



# OBITUARIES

## CLARENCE BEAVER



BELTON, Texas — Funeral services for Clarence Daniel Beaver, Jr. were held April 18, 2013 at Dossman Funeral Home in Belton with Billy Johnson officiating. Burial followed at Resthaven Cemetery.

Clarence Beaver, 86, was called home by the Lord April 14 at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Temple, Texas. He was born March 13, 1927 in Okmulgee, Okla. to Daniel and Betty Alexander-Beaver.

Clarence Beaver was retired from the U.S. Army. He had fought in World War II and was stationed in Korea and on the Czechoslovakian boarder in Germany as a patrolman. He retired from Wilson Plastics after 24 years of service.

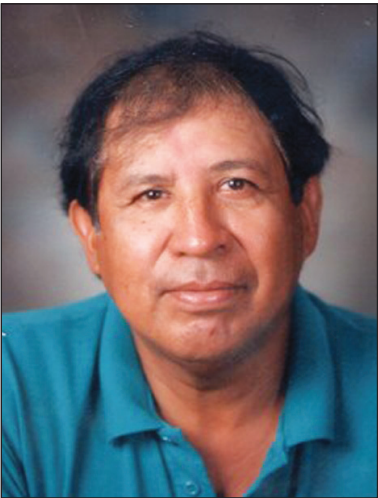
He married his wife Ermilinda Martinez-Beaver March 14, 1957 in Belton. He was a member of Miller Heights Baptist Church and an American Indian, great mechanic and loved to hunt and fish. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his family whom he loved.

Clarence Beaver is preceded in death by: his parents brothers, John Martin and Edgar Beaver and sister Wanda Beaver.

He is survived by: wife, Ermilinda Beaver, sons, Jake, Franklin, Robert and Joseph Beaver, John Gauna, Jr. and Raymond Guana, daughters, Melissa and Kimberly Beaver, 18 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

The family requests memorials be mad to Miller Heights Baptist Church, 1400 S. Wall St., Belton, Texas 76513.

## WILLIAM D CHALAKEE



OKMULGEE, Okla. — William 'Bunky' Chalakee, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away March 24, 2013 at the age of 68. He was born in Okmulgee November 6, 1944 to Webster and Martha (Bird) Chalakee.

He attended the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kan. and attended the Newtown Methodist Church in Okmulgee. He retired from Southwestern Bell after 33 years and started working at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Child Development Center as a property maintenance worker for nine years.

Bunky was a member of the Region 8 Indian Rodeo Association.

He was an avid pool player and put on many tournaments. He enjoyed playing with his grandchildren and was a huge Oklahoma State University fan.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Webster and Martha Chalakee and brother, Tom Mix Chalakee.

Survivors include: longtime companion, Petra Earhart, children, Carmalita Michelle, Carman Melanie, Nathan Brice, Brandy and Christopher Cody Chalakee and his wife Leslie, sisters, Virginia Kolakowski, Thelma Harjo Chalakee, Barbara Davis, Stella Harjo, Margie Chalakee, Sharon Chalakee and her husband, Ray Harjo and Donna Chalakee, brother, Billy Webster Chalakee, grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Wake Services were held March 27 at the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services were held March 28 at the Wilson School Gymnasium with Rev. David Dunson and Rev. Newman Frank officiating. Burial followed the service at the Salt Creek Cemetery in Wilson, Okla. under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee. Pallbearers will be Cody Chalakee, Brad Fish, Chad Fish, Nate Barnett, Pete Gomez, Cliff McKinney, Rayne Harjo and Jeff Chalakee.

Honorary Pallbearers were Darren DeLaune, John LaCoss, McKinney Family, Yardeka Byrd, Michael Washington, Richard Jones, Marsey Scott, Ryan and Ben Rutledge, Marissa Bear Family, Kayla Rabbit Family and Pistol Pete.

Friends may send their condolences to [www.shurdenjackson.com](http://www.shurdenjackson.com).

## NANCIE LONG



TULSA, Okla. — Nancy Effie Long, a resident of Dewar, Okla., passed away April 21, 2013 in Tulsa at the age of 73. She was born July 16, 1939 in Henryetta, Okla. to Henry Lee Russell & Mary (Wills). She was married to Gerald 'Gene' Long on January 6, 1981 in Dewar.

She was preceded in death by: parents, first husband, Howard Langston, brother, Floyd Russell, sister, Faye Shawdah and sister, Ruby Coates.

Nancy Long is survived by: husband Gerald 'Gene' Long, son, Howard Dink Langston and his wife Cheryl Nan, daughter, Mary Shannon Langston, step-daughter, Jo Long, step-daughter, Lana McPherson and her husband Billy, grandchildren, Steven Wilkerson, Judy Capps, Elizabeth Kaler, Sarah Sebring, Dustin Richards, Cheyenne Richars, Matt and Tony Dugan, Ryan and Alyshia Byngton, 12 great-grandchildren, brothers, Curtis, James, Charlie, Dee, Lee, and Bill Russell and sis-

ter, Sarah Ann Kidwell.

Viewing was held April 24 at Integrity Funeral Service.

Pallbearers were Dee Russell Jr., Jeff Richards, Dale McKay, Daniel LeFlore, Bob Alberding and Billy Brewer. Honorary Pallbearers were Howard Dink Langston, Dustin Richards, Billy David Russell, James Henry Russell, Jimmy O. Kidwell, Derrick Sebring, Bryan Kaler and Mike Capps.

Funeral Services were scheduled April 26 at Silver Spring Baptist Church. Interment will followed at New Sonora Cemetery under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

## LENORA LAMBERT



CLEARVIEW, Okla. — Lenora 'Dotsie' Barnett Lambert died April 5, 2013 at the age of 102. She was born to the parentage of Sam and Margaret (Grayson) Barnett on July 6, 1910. She spent her early years in Okfuskee County and received her formal education from Clearview School. She later married Clinton Lambert, and had nine children with him. When Clinton's health failed, the couple moved to Oklahoma City where they resided until his death.

Lenora Lambert returned to Clearview after the death of her husband where she spent many days enjoying her flowerbeds, playing solitaire, and watching her soap operas. She accepted Christ in adulthood and joined Salt Creek Baptist Church.

In 1996, Lenora returned to Oklahoma City due to health issues, and she became a resident of the Midwest City Nursing Home until her death. In 2010 Lenora was recognized with the State of Oklahoma Citation Award and she received the NBC Universal Centenarian Award from Willard Scott in 2011.

She is preceded in death by: her parents, husband and daughters Lorene Hall and Mildred Lignons.

She is survived by: daughters, Evelyn Lambert, Geraldine Milligan, and Bobbie Jean (Willie) Hughes, sons, Linwood (Laura), James (Lula), Willie and Jay (Debra), son-in-laws Foster Lignons and Rady Hall, 25 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She will be greatly missed by the residents and staff of Midwest City Nursing Home and Compassionate Care Hospice.

The funeral services were held April 13 in Clearview.

## LULA MESSER



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Lula Mae Messer, a resident of Okmulgee passed away March 22, 2013 at the age of 78. She was born June 24, 1934 to Isaac and Selee (Roberts) Deere in Okfuskee County, Okla.

She is preceded in death by: parents, Isaac and Selee Deere, grandparents, Chick and Nancy Roberts and brothers, Tom and Eunice Deere.

Survivors include: children, Roberta Pickett, Robert Deere, Rachel and Carla Schexenider, Nancy, Linda, Ronald, Brenda and Martin Proctor and Mary Hernandez, brothers, Wilson and Samuel Deere, twenty-five grandchildren, fifty-two great grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren and numerous other relatives and friends.

Wake services were held March 26 at the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Funeral services were held March 27 at Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church with Reverend Kenneth Cooper officiating. Burial followed the service at Nuyaka Indian Cemetery under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers were Rusty Lowe, R.D. Waterdown, Richard Proctor, Joshua Pickett, Shawn Deere, Robert Deere, Jr. and Wesley Shade.

Honorary Pallbearers were M.A. Proctor, Ronnie Proctor, Samuel Sanders, Cory Sanders and Tommy Deere.

Friends may send their condolences to [www.shurdenjackson.com](http://www.shurdenjackson.com).

## JOSEPH LEE



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Joseph Andrew Lee, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at the age of 25. He was born August 31, 1987 to William Rocky and Susan DeAnn (Gibson) Lee in Claremore, Okla. He was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Okmulgee.

He was preceded in death by: grandparents, Carl and Dora Lee and grandfather, Leland Buck.

Survivors include: parents, Rocky and Susie Lee, sister, Tiffany Sue Lee, brother, Carl Lee, grandparents, Ed and Kathern Gibson and numerous other relatives and friends.

Graveside Services were held April 1 at Okmulgee Cemetery with Reverend Bill Fuller officiating.

Services are under the direc-

tion of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Friends may send their condolences to [www.shurdenjackson.com](http://www.shurdenjackson.com).

## JEANETTE WASHINGTON



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Jeanette Ruth Tecumseh-Washington, a resident of Okmulgee passed away Feb. 5, 2013 at the age of 63. She was born January 3, 1950 to Isreal and Wisey Scott-Tecumseh in Claremore, Okla.

She retired from Whitlock Packaging in Muskogee, Okla. In 2003, she co-founded Akasama Ministries in Okmulgee where she ministered and preached regularly.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers Nero and Willis Tecumseh.

Survivors include: husband Rev. Donald Washington, children Melvonna Marie Crook and Marcella Mia Crook, Sean Chopoksa, Donna Louise Washington, Hyatt Nolan Washington and Rev. Cetto-Mekko Tecumseh, 21 grandchildren, a great-grandchild, siblings Ramsey and Denise Tecumseh, Rev. July and Norma Tecumseh, Eldean Tecumseh, Katherine Tecumseh, Pastor Paul and Marianne Tecumseh Sr., Emma (Tecumseh) and Joe Dominguez and Isabell Tecumseh along with numerous nephews, nieces and other family and friends.

Wake Services were held Feb. 8 at Concharty United Methodist Church.

Funeral Services were scheduled Feb. 9 at the Concharty United Methodist Church with Pastor Mitchell Taylor officiating. Burial followed the service at the Tecumseh Family Cemetery under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers were Yv-hv-etv Moses Tecumseh, Paul Tecumseh, Jr., Jeremy Tecumseh, Ryan Jones, Theodore Olea Jr. and Joe 'JoJo' Martel Jr.

Honorary Pallbearers were Etho Lunsford, Damon Peak, Lance White, Christian Sapulpa, Jabaica Tecumseh, Quinton Dominguez and Tullemarsey Tecumseh.

Friends may send their condolences to [www.shurdenjackson.com](http://www.shurdenjackson.com).

## THANK YOU

The family of Winey Scott Yargee would like to thank everyone for their condolences, flowers, food and donations during the passing of our beloved one. We would like to thank all the churches, ceremonial grounds, family and friends.

## CORRECTION

In the April 1 edition of the Muscogee Nation News, the Office of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families was inadvertently misidentified as Together Advancing Native Families. The office may be contacted at : 918-732-7985.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR MAY 2013

## LOWE/HARJO REUNION SET FOR MAY 18

OKEMAH, Okla. — A Willie Harjo and Canuky Lowe reunion is scheduled May 18 at Jaycee Point at Okemah Lake.

A fishing and horseshoe contest are scheduled and there will be a lunch and door prizes. Families who attend are asked to bring their family trees and pictures, one covered dish, dessert, drink and a door prize.

For more information contact Anna Marshall at 405-328-0022, Annie Harjo at 405-831-5242 or Janice Screechowl at 918-237-6123.

## SMITH FAMILY REUNION SET FOR MAY 25

CARSON, Okla. — The Smith Family Reunion will be held May 25 beginning at 10 a.m.

The gathering will be held at Billy Ray Smith's home.

Please bring a covered dish for the potluck meal. There will be door prizes, a cakewalk, old family pictures and more.

All are invited for a fun-filled day and to reunite with our families. For more information, call 918-656-3521.

## SCREECHOWL REUNION SCHEDULED JUNE 2

OKEMAH, Okla. — A Screechowl reunion is scheduled June 2 at Jaycee Point at Okemah Lake.

A fishing, horseshoe, quilt and best traditional food contest will be held.

For more information contact Janice Screechowl at 918-237-6123.

## TENNIS ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS SET FOR MAY 25-27

TULSA, Okla. — The North American Indian Tennis Association National Championships will be held May 25-27 at LaFortune Park Tennis Center in Tulsa.

The opening ceremony is scheduled May 25 at 8:45 and play begins at 9 a.m. with a banquet beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Host lodging is through Tulsa Select Hotel and the guest speaker will be Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger.

For more information contact Jerry Bales at 918-633-6275 or by email at jerryabales@aol.com.

### THANK YOU

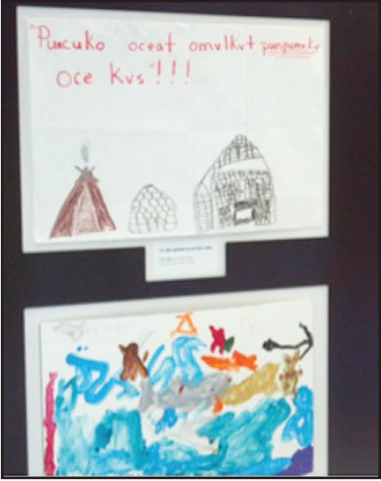
The children and family of William ‘Bunky’ Chalakee would like to express their gratitude to the following: Rev. David Dunson, Rev. Newman Frank, Alfred Berryhill, Sherry Berryhill and the other cooks who provided food for our family, Marissa Bear for the booklets and slideshow, Mrs. James and the Wilson Staff, the Pallbearers and Honorary Pallbearers, Brad Fish and family, all of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Childcare centers, Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home and all who helped and supported our family.

Signed Nathan, Carman, Cody and Carmalita Chalakee and family.

## SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD DINNER SET FOR JUNE 6

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Jim Thorpe Association in conjunction with other entities will host the 29 annual Scholar-Athlete Awards June 6, at 7 p.m. at the Jim Thorpe Museum Jeanne and Bob Naifeh and Bud Wilkinson Event Center located at 4040 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

For more information contact Patti Millican at: 405-427-1400.



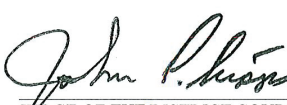
NORMAN, Okla. — Mason Elementary School Mvskoke language students participated in the Native American Youth Language Fair April 1-2 at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.

Students from PreK-6th grade participated in the language fair poster contest themed, “The Language Goes With Me” and 2nd grade students Noah Bogle and Zoie Frasier were awarded honorable mentions for their entries.

### THANK YOU



Cindy Pigeon would like to thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for helping the Ryal Public School obtain spending money for travel to Washington D.C. and is proud of the students for maintaining a high enough grade level to go on the trip.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT		DISTRICT COURT FILED
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
M.M., DOB: 03-04-12	)	Case No. JV-2012-07 2013 MAY 2 PM 3 28
Alleged Deprived Child.	)	MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK
NOTICE OF HEARING TO:		
Unknown Father of M.M., DOB: 03/04/2012		
YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the <u>5th</u> DAY OF <u>July</u> , 2013 AT <u>9:00</u> A.M.		
YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.		
 JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT		



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# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## Legal seminar features ambitious agenda regarding Indian law

**JUNE 1, 2013**  
**VOL. 43, ISSUE 11**  
**"KVCOHVSE"**  
**BLACKBERRY MONTH**



### Baby Veronica, HEARTH Act, VAWA and more discussed at CLE

Gary Fife | MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA, Okla. — The hot legal topics in current Indian Affairs were examined, analyzed and discussed at the 11th annual Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Seminar May 9-10 at the River Spirit Event Center.

Organized by the Muscokee (Creek) Nation (MCN) District Court, the seminar provided information on the latest developments in Indian law and offered 12 CLE credit hours for law students.



MNN/Gary Fife

Michigan U.S. Assistant Attorney Jeff Davis discusses new historic laws affecting Indian Country at the Continuing Legal Education seminar May 9 at the River Spirit Event Center.

MCN District Court Judge Gregory Bigler described the unique combination of goals for the CLE.

"I think what I tried to do was get something useful for practitioners but also have some of the academic presentations. One of the things we wanted to make sure of was that this is truly coming out of a tribal perspective, understanding that the prime audience is the attorneys who will be appearing before the tribal

court. But also give something that would be of use or of interest to the citizenry who may attend.

We tried to get a mix there but there's so many things that you can take a full day on. So we tried to give a broad presentation of many different things, from the basics of federal Indian law to traditional perspectives to current U.S. Supreme Court cases."

**Baby Veronica**

Probably the topic commanding the most interest was the "Baby Veronica" case (Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl) currently before the U.S. Supreme Court, which is testing the limits of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

The case involves a Cherokee

father contesting the adoption of his daughter by a non-Indian South Carolina couple.

A ruling in favor of the petitioner (non-Indian parents) could set a legal precedent that would render ICWA ineffective and have a strong impact on tribal governmental powers.

SEE LEGAL - 2

### Health and business projects approved at Council session

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — During a regular session of the Muscokee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council May 18, the Council took a moment to view the new MCN tribal website and congratulate the athletic success of two Okemah, Okla. athletic teams.

The new website has a color scheme reminiscent of the tribal logo with predominant earth colors. The site is available to the public online at: [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/).

The tribal legislature also took a pause to honor the achievements of the Okemah Panthers weightlifting and basketball teams. It was the first time the weightlifting team had competed and they won their state competition. The basketball team took the runner-up title in the state tournament.

The Council voted on the following legislation during the session:

- TR 13-029 Approving the master agreement for Treasury Services between the MCN and BOK Financial. Rep. Sam Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-053 Confirming the nomination of Nelson Scott Harjo to serve on the MCN Citizenship Board. Rep. Johnnie Green sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-054 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement for dialysis services with Sanderling Renal Services for the MCN Department of Health (DOH). Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

SEE COUNCIL - 3

## MCN organizes relief effort

### MCN accepting donations for tornado disaster relief

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscokee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Public Relations department is accepting tornado disaster aid in the form of monetary donations and the following non-perishable items: bottled water, work gloves, toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, deodorant, etc.), power bars, Gatorade, wet wipes, individually wrapped snacks, hand sanitizer, sunscreen, insect repellent, heavy duty trash bags, personal sanitation



Mvskoke Media/Christina Good Voice

Volunteers organize donations at the Muscokee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Executive Building as part of the MCN tornado relief effort.

and feminine hygiene products.

These items must be unused and in their original unopened packaging. No more clothing items will be accepted at this time.

If you are donating items from the list above, please take all items to the Mvskoke Media Building, which is at the southern end of the MCN campus at 1010 E. Eufaula St., Okmulgee, Okla.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger issued a statement in regards to the ongoing relief efforts.

"When your neighbor is down and needs help, it's important to offer your hand, but even more important, offer your heart."

We will be accepting these items during business hours. Any monetary donations will be accepted at that location and at the MCN Public Relations office located in the MCN Executive Building (Chief's building). Personal checks can be made out to the American Red Cross. For information on how to donate via text message, visit the American Red Cross website at: [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact MCN Public Relations at 918-732-7632.





MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS STAFF

MANAGER  
CHRISTINA  
GOOD VOICE

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
GARY FIFE

REPORTER  
LAYOUT/EDITING  
STERLING COSPER

REPORTER  
DARREN DELAUNE

FEATURE WRITER  
GERALD WOFFORD

CIRCULATION  
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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

LEGAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I think that's a possibility. We don't know what the Supreme Court will do. That's reading 'tea leaves,' you never know what they do. Sometimes when it appears that it's the worst decision, watching the oral arguments, it doesn't come out so badly.

Depending on what they say if they say there's no need to involve the tribe or send it (Baby Veronica) back to the non-Indian parents that would be a huge blow to the tribes. So, we just don't know until it occurs. So that's the concern. However, I don't see them overturning the law but it's how much they limit it; that is the scary part," Bigler said.

Chrissi Nimmo, Assistant Attorney General for Cherokee Nation, was on the CLE agenda. Nimmo was part of the team who represented the child's father, Dusten Brown using ICWA. Brown has been caring for the child at his home in Nowata, Okla. for the last 16 months.

Nimmo reported that since the oral arguments have been made, it is a matter of waiting until the Supreme Court renders a decision. She forecasted that the decision would be handed down before the end of June and said she felt it would be favorable to the father and tribe, but that it would be a close vote.

"I won't guess numbers as far as the split on the judges. I don't think it will be a unanimous decision but I'm very optimistic about the chances of Cherokee Nation and the birth father prevailing in this case."

There have been strong emotional arguments made about the welfare of the child and its connections to the Cherokee Nation but Nimmo says there are other considerations.

"I first want to say that one of the things that is constantly being overlooked is that both of the state courts (the family court and the South Carolina Supreme Court) separately found that it was in this child's best interest to be placed with her father.

There's no doubt there was some emotional attachment there. I have no doubt that this little girl felt the adoptive couple were her parents, but they're not."

"She had a fit parent who was fighting for custody and he deserved the right to raise his daughter and we hope that's what happens."

Nimmo underscored the importance of this child custody case and its effects on tribes nationwide.

"It's important to all tribes. Sometimes we see tribes on different sides of different Indian

**"I DON'T SEE THEM OVERTURNING THE LAW BUT IT'S HOW MUCH THEY LIMIT IT THAT IS THE SCARY PART"**

**-MCN DISTRICT COURT JUDGE GREGORY BIGLER REGARDING THE 'BABY VERONICA' CASE**

law questions. But, without question, in this case all tribes have been extremely supportive of the Cherokee Nation and the father."

TLOA/VAWA

In the last few years, there have been landmark developments in American Indian law that have confirmed the authority of tribal governments to control criminal activities occurring in Indian Country.

Jeff Davis is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Michigan and Executive Director of the national Indian Law and Order Commission. He presented his analysis of two of them, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA). Both laws are what he called, 'historic' advances for Indian law but have their drawbacks.

VAWA confirms the powers of tribal courts to prosecute cases of domestic violence against Native women committed by non-Natives on Indian lands. TLOA grants tribal courts the authority to impose longer sentences for offenses committee on Indian lands.

"Historic because until TLOA was passed in July of 2010, tribes by federal statute were limited to

incarcerating someone for one year. That was based on historical misunderstandings that were based on the fact that non-Indian society didn't believe tribes could issue justice in their own forms."

"This past March, the Violence Against Women Act was passed which recognized the inherent sovereignty of tribes to prosecute non-Indians in their tribal court systems," Davis said.

The drawback, Davis said, is that many tribes don't have the legal resources or funds to enforce these laws.

"Sadly, that is the reality. With

til now, the federal government had to approve every lease of surface lands.

It's unrealistic to expect the federal government to get out of that process altogether, so this is sort of a step in the right direction, but it's a 'half-step.' Under this, any tribe that wants to can develop tribal regulations for surface leasing. This doesn't include minerals," Royster said.

According to Royster, the tribe could submit those regulations to the federal government for approval. Once accepted, the federal government steps out of the approval process.

The tribe then could issue leases for a variety of purposes such as housing, businesses, alternative energy production, agriculture or commercial developments. These would not be subject for approval by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The tribe would have to bear the burden of coming up with the new rules.

"This is one of the downsides. It's not going to be the best alternative for all but it will be the best option for some. Lots of tribes already have surface leasing regulations in place.

They require lessees to comply with tribal regulations first and then get federal approval. So, with those regulations already in place, a lot of tribes are halfway there."

The problems are, she said, tribes would have to have the governmental offices in place, would be required to do environmental reviews. There would also have to come up with the funds to cover these costs.

According to Royster, it is important to note that the HEARTH Act applies to tribally owned lands, not allotted lands and is not to be used for oil and gas development.

Some of the other topics presented during the CLE seminar looked at traditional law and culture, the National Commission on Indian trust administration and intercultural communication implications of contemporary tribal courts.

Popular casino expands to meet demand

\$2.8 million renovation of MCN Duck Creek Casino completed

Gary Fife | MNN Editorial Assistant

Beggs, Okla. — They were so successful, they had to turn away customers.

Ernie Tiger, General Manager of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Duck Creek Casino explains the reason behind the facility's renovation and expansion May 15 during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the reopening of the casino.

Over the last couple of months, the casino, located on busy U.S. Highway 75 has had a parking lot busy with construction crews making renovations to Duck Creek, which added up to a total of \$2.8 million. This includes a remodeled interior as well as new entranceways and porticos.

The casino was first opened in 2003 and during the past 10 years, Tiger said, the Duck Creek casino



MCN tribal and community officials officially reopen the newly renovated Duck Creek Casino May 15.

had become so popular it couldn't meet customer demand.

"On the weekends we were running out of machines, so I know we were turning customers away and we wanted to remedy that problem by doing a small expansion. Duck Creek, before the renovation had about 250-260 machines, give or take. Now, after our project has been completed, we are up to 300 machines."

Tiger said the expansion would fit their usage needs and add variety.

"We feel like that is a good amount of gaming machines for our patrons and a good mixture. We have a lot of new titles, new machines. At the same time, we've also kept a lot of the players favorite games."

The Duck Creek casino sent \$6 million to the MCN in 2012. Tiger expects to do as well, if not better in

the coming year.

The casino location on U.S. Highway 75 has been ideal, Tiger said. It works in their favor by giving patrons an alternative to city traffic and congestion.

"We would not trade our highway for a lot of town, because we love our highway, it's a very busy highway. Everybody down south has to go to Tulsa sometime or another and they just pull in."



COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- TR 13-055 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a letter of agreement for business and information technology consulting services with Dell Marketing for the MCN DOH. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-056 Approving the MCN long-range transportation plan update 2013. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-057 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Indian Health Service (IHS) regarding the provisions of satisfactory domestic water supply and wastewater disposal for 21 new or like new Indian owned homes in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Ofuskee, Okmulgee, Tulsa, Rogers, Seminole and Wagoner Counties. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-058 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a temporary operating permit with Four Winds Fireworks for the operation of one temporary fireworks facility on tribal trust land to benefit the Glenpool Creek Indian Community. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-059 Authoring the principal chief to enter into a tribal transportation program agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-060 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation and Wagoner County for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by the MCN tribal transportation program. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-061 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement for the Indian Health Service project OK 12-E1707. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-062 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology for the exchange of land. Rep. Keeper Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-063 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a land exchange and maintenance agreement with the City of Tulsa. Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-065 Authorizing the principal chief, through the MCN DOH, to execute an application and contract for water, a benefit unit certificate and a service agreement with Creek County rural water district #2. Rep. Kara Medina sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-066 Authorizing the principal chief to submit a rural business enterprise grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide loan funds to eligible tribal citizens for business development, which will be administered by the Mvskoke Loan Fund. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-067 Authoriz-

ing the principal chief to submit an intermediary re-lending program grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide loan funds to eligible tribal citizens for the business development, which will be administered by the Mvskoke Loan Fund. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-068 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the principal chief to execute a separate memorandum of understanding with six Oklahoma counties for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by the MCN tribal transportation program. Reps. David Nichols and Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-069 Requesting the principal chief to negotiate a contract with Willowheart LLC. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-2 with Reps. Dode Barnett and Robert Hufft voting against it.
- NCA 13-096 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$3,600 to Ryal Community Baptist Church. Johnson and Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-098 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$1,500 to assist a Muscogee (Creek) student with education expenses. Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-7 with Reps. Pearl Thomas, Pete Beaver, Eddie LaGrone, Greene, Hill, Hufft and Barnett voting against it.
- NCA 13-102 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,500 to assist two Muscogee (Creek) citizens with education expenses. Medina sponsored the amendment, which failed 5-11 with Reps. Lena Wind, Shirlene Ade, Thomas Yahola, Franklin Coachman, Barnett, Beaver, Greene, Hill, Hufft and LaGrone voting against it.
- NCA 13-104 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$500.00 to the Henryetta Outlaws. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-105 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$324,000 to the MCN Employment and Training College work experience program fiscal year 2013 budget. Greene, Medina and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-106 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$655,072 to the Employment and Training Summer Youth program fiscal year 2013 budget. Sponsored by Medina and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-107 Authorizing the expenditure of the Higher Education Scholarship fund for the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation program. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-108 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,000 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Ade and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-1 with Hufft voting against it.
- NCA 13-109 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$250 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Reps. Darrell Proctor, Coachman, Hill and Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-1 with Yahola

voting against it.

- NCA 13-110 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$6,600 to the Oklahoma City Muscogee Association. Hill, Hufft, Medina, Randolph, Wind and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA-111 Appropriating \$14,082 to provide telephony services for certain MCN facilities. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-112 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$500 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Greene and Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-1 with Barnett voting against it.
- NCA 13-113 Amending MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 16, Chapter 9, Section 9-105 entitled, “Powers and Duties” and 9-120 entitled, “Funds.” Randolph, Greene and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-114 Appropriating \$210,000 to be used for retaining Watts Partners for consulting and advisory services on behalf of the MCN for the second year of a two-year agreement. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-115 Authorizing a \$950,000 expenditure of the Office of Public Gaming income. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-116 Amending MCNCA Title 22, Chapter 6, Section 6-104 entitled “Benefits.” Beaver and Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-117 Authorizing a donation of \$208 to Norman Public Schools for Muscogee (Creek) students advance placement tests. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-119 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$3,324 to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-121 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,150 for unpaid funeral services of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-122 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$14,200 to the Weleetka Indian Community. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-123 Approving the 2014 Indian Housing plan. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-124 Establishing a Mvskoke Loan Fund, which is a Community Development Financial Institution providing business and financial services to the citizens of the nation. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-125 Authorizing a donation of \$5,022.50 to Okemah Public Schools. Wind and Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.
- NCA 13-126 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$200,579 to Glenpool Creek Indian Community to assist with operating expenses. Medina and Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.



Sally Jewell, Wayland Gray and Native demographics

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

The new Interior Department honcho, Sally Jewell told a Senate panel “Indian education is embarrassing.”

Jewell made her first appearance before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, May 20 in good ol’ Disneyland-On-The-Potomac.

Jewell said some \$2 billion has been spent on American Indian schools over the past decade and that dozens of schools remain in poor condition.

Wonder how she picked that one up? She said she has not paid a visit to these schools– but has told of the serious condition of some of the schools.

There is a \$1.3 billion backlog on Indian school construction projects. Even so, the president did not request new funding for rebuilding schools.

Jewell said her agency “cannot repair and replace schools without money.”

So, is the future going to be: ‘Do something with nothing?’

Hey, do you know where the Indians are in this state?

The American Indian and Alaska Native population was highly concentrated in 2010. Are you ‘in-combination?’

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, of the 3,143 counties in the United States, 71 percent (2,237 counties) had less than 1.5 percent of the population identified as American Indian alone or in combination with another race.

In 187 counties, the American Indian and Alaska Native alone-or- in-combination population constituted 8 percent or more of the total county population. Of these counties, 55 (29 percent) were in Oklahoma (emphasis mine).

Most of the remaining counties were in the upper Midwest, the four corners area of the Southwest where Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah meet and Alaska. This pattern was similar for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone

population.

The American Indian and Alaska Native population was highly concentrated in counties in Oklahoma.

That’s not too hard to figure out. Just go to a pow-wow and listen to announcers list a dancers’ tribal ancestry. Lots of ‘combining’ in Indian country.

An Alabama jury dropped terrorist charges against Waylan Gray.

There was no probable cause to prosecute Muscogee (Creek) protester Gray for making a terrorist threat as alleged by Poarch Band law enforcement.

The Alabama District Court in Wetumpka sent the case to a Grand Jury on March 20, 2013, to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to prosecute Gray for the terrorist threat charge. A video recording showed Gray making the comment, “We will be back, after this casino is down, we will be back.”

Last week Gray received a notice from the Poarch Band: “...the Tribal Council voted to exclude you from all Tribal Lands (all trust lands and any other lands owned by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.... effective immediately and shall remain in effect permanently. Any violation of this Exclusion from Tribal lands could result in prosecution.”

Gray has already seen the Alabama graybar hotel once, hope he never has to see it again.

One of my favorite movies, “Star Wars” is going to be translated into Navajo. The folks with the idea to make it happen have been busy trying to find the right Navajo speakers to fit the various roles. Imagine Lord Darth Vader saying, “Ya’ taa.” (For you Navajo speakers, this is the best spelling approximation I can come up with).

Wonder what the Navajo word for ‘stormtrooper’ will be?

Speaking of stormtroopers, yours truly will be gathering a few members of the international Star Wars fan club—the 501st Legion, to march in this year’s Festival parade. I’ll be the guy sweating under the Snowtrooper armor.

Hope to see you at Festival! Hvtvm Cerehares!





# TERO

MEDIA RELEASE

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The purpose of Tribal Employment and Rights Office (TERO) is to encourage employment of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) citizens as well as citizens of Federally Recognized tribes and to assist in and require the fair employment and prevent discrimination in the employment procurement, according to the TERO page on the MCN website.

The office is open and staff is available to answer any questions citizens may have, said TERO Director Rob Daugherty.

TERO Services include a Job Skills Bank and list of Certified Firms.

Applications, checklists and FAQs are also available on the website.

The mission of TERO is to help improve the quality of life for MCN citizens and citizens of other Federally Recognized tribes through the development and assertion of Native American Preference laws and the contracting rights of preferential employment, business and economic opportunities throughout MCN’s business entities within its jurisdictional boundaries of the Creek Nation.

For more information, please contact Daugherty at 918-549-2962 or rdaugherty@mcn-nsn.gov or Legal Coordinator Shalee Cook at 918-549-2963 or scook@mcn-nsn.gov.

Information and forms are also available on the MCN website, muscogeenation-nsn.gov, under the Tribal Services tab at the top of the website.

## MCN Behavioral Health hosts Youth Summit



Submission/MCN DOH  
Muscogee (Creek) and other Native American youth attended the Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day Summit hosted by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services May 9 at the Glenpool Community Activity Center in Glenpool, Okla.

## Yuchi Knowledge Bowl a success



Submission/Richard Grounds  
Yuchi Elders (l to r) Maxine Wildcat Barnett, Ann Rolland Holder, Mary Watashe and Josephine Wildcat Bigler participate as judges May 4 during the Yuchi Knowledge Bowl.

## ‘Heroes of Hope’ created to help children

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Contributor

GLENPOOL, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services held a Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day Youth Summit, entitled “Heroes of Hope” May 9 at the Glenpool Community Center. Muscogee (Creek) and other Native American youth were invited to the one-day summit that consisted of break-out sessions and motivational speeches for students grades 9-12.

The sessions included: Interviewing and Job Skills, Native wellness, Healthy Relationships, Transition Age Skills, Physical Activity and a stickball demonstration.

For Lindsley Harry, Social Marketing/TA Coordinator of the MCN Behavioral Health System and Substance Abuse Services, this year’s attendance was expected.

“This is our third year in having the summit at this time of the year and sometimes that can depend on if school is out for the summer or kids are taking tests on who actually attends,” Harry said. “The attendance for this year was 150.”

Harry feels the summit is ‘very critical’ for Native American youth and she hopes that

they go away with a better sense of self and gain practical knowledge while also learning more about their culture and identity.

MCN Health Secretary Lt. Seneca Smith began the summit by welcoming everyone and motivational speaker Jeremy Fields from Phoenix, Ariz. told the youth to “step up and know you can meet any challenge!”

The summit was held in conjunction with the Support Strategic Initiative by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, (SAMHSA), a national organization that, according to their website [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov), ‘was created in 1992 by the U.S. Congress to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.’

## Students learn in order to preserve Yuchi language

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Contributor

SAPULPA, Okla. — The Euchee Mission Boarding School was in existence from 1891 to 1947. During that era, Native American children who attended the school were commanded to learn the English language. Those children that refused to abandon their native tongue, were punished using such methods as the belt line, which involved children walking down a path as teachers struck them with a leather belt.

On the same grounds the Mission school called home, the Euchee (also spelled “Yuchi”) Language Project held the Yuchi Knowledge Bowl May 4 to celebrate the learning of the Yuchi language by their tribal youth. The event was fashioned after a trivia contest in which students were asked the proper pronunciation or spelling of a word in the Yuchi language.

Elders from the tribe were asked to serve as judges, which included: Maxine Wildcat-Barnett, Ann Rolland Holder, Mary Watashe and Josephine Wildcat Bigler.

The Yuchi Language Project picked up students daily during the academic school year in vans provided by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and took them to the Yuchi House in Sapulpa, Okla. The Yuchi House gives students an opportunity to learn the Yuchi language and culture through lessons and games.

The students were from areas such as: Kellyville, Glenpool, Kiefer, Pretty Water and Sapulpa, Okla.

Jennifer Thompson was awarded first place in the Young Yuchi teenage group while Ethan Mosquito and Kailyn Bearpaw took first and second in the Middle Group respectively. The Little Kids Group winners were Shafia Sadie Spencer, first and Gabriell Noriega, second. To recognize their hard work and commitment, all students who participated received certificates of achievement and prizes provided by local merchants.

A unique logo titled the ‘Yuchi Einstein’ was created for the event by Yuchi/Navajo artist Steven Grounds. Dr. Richard Grounds, Director of the Euchee (Yuchi) Language Project, explained the significance.

“The new message proclaimed in the symbol is intended to counterbalance the old stereotypical message that being Indian or talking ‘Indian’ made you dumb. The new positive message is that if you speak your tribal language then you’re smart like Einstein,” Richard Grounds said.

Barnett welcomed everyone in the Yuchi language and expressed appreciation for the large turn out and the “love the staff shows to the students everyday, going beyond just a focus on language.”

Second Chief, Roger Barnett addressed the crowd noting the importance of “keeping our tribal languages alive and recalling the hard work that went into developing the funding through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council that provides the core funding for the successful program.”

## DOH hosts event to combat meth



MNN/Gerald Wofford  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Lighthorse Officer Daniel Wind III and MCN Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator Leslie Crow present a ‘Strengthen My Nation’ t-shirt.

## MCN citizens educated on growing problem

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE, Okla. – During an average work week Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Lighthorse Officer Daniel Wind III handles many problems in the MCN communities and combating the illegal use and manufacture of methamphetamine is always high on this list of problems.

“I would say out of all the things I deal with during a seven-day period, at least three will involve meth,” said Wind, a 16 year veteran of law enforcement. “It’s cheap; it’s high; it’s addictive and the person doing it just wants more and more.”

Wind was one of the speakers during the ‘Celebration of Collaboration: Fight the Spread of Meth in Your Community’ event conducted by the MCN Department of Health May 14 entitled ‘Strengthen My Nation.’

Wind presented a training video to community leaders and youth in the audience and mentioned that the National Congress of American Indians has joined in the prevention effort and supplied information for the event. He mentioned employees of tribe in the Southwest, but would not disclose the identity, that were given drug tests and two-thirds tested positive for meth.

According to the National Indian Country Initiative, Native Americans now experience the highest meth usage rates of any ethnic group in the nation.

Leslie Crow, Program Coordinator with the MCN Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative felt the event should take place during National Prevention Week which is a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration sponsored event during the week of May 12-18. During this week, May 14 was the day selected for the prevention of illegal drugs and prescription drugs.

“We just want the people to leave here with a better knowledge of how to tell when someone is using meth or to be able to recognize meth labs in their communities and create the awareness and create more communication so that people will know how to address the issue in their own communities and organizations,” she said.









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## FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

**Sunday, June 16th**

**NOON - 6:00PM:**

**\$10 Match Play**

**Each male Diamond Club member will receive a complimentary gift!**

Five (5) Hot Seat prize drawings for \$100 free play every ½ hour from 1:30PM - 5:00PM.

Two (2) cash prize Hot Seat prize drawings every ½ hour from 1:30PM - 5:00PM. Win \$200 - \$500!

## Catch a JUNE BUG



**Saturday, June 29th**

**NOON - 8:00PM:**

**\$10 Match Play**

**2013 Volkswagen Beetle must go!**

Five (5) Hot Seat prize drawings for \$100 free play every ½ hour from 1:30PM - 8:00PM.

### Electronic Ticket Cash Prize Drawings

Players will earn (1) Electronic ticket with every \$50 coin-in. One (1) electronic ticket drawing every 1/2 hour from 1:30PM - 8:00PM. Win cash prizes up to \$500 or the chance to win entry to the GRAND PRIZE FINALE

### Grand Prize Finale

Grand Prize qualifiers select an envelope for a chance at \$1,000 cash or a 2013 Volkswagen Beetle!

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# COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL EVENTS 2013

## YOUTH WELLNESS SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM SET FOR JUNE 4 AND 11

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Youth Wellness Summer Enrichment Program is scheduled for June 4 and 11 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Glenpool Indian Community Activity Center.

The event will feature a variety of youth activities including prevention programs and sports.

The event is open to Native Americans ages 10-17 and all Native youth are welcome but Native Glenpool residents take precedent in lieu of limited capacity.

A tribal citizenship or CDIB card must be provided and Glenpool residents must provide proof of address for priority booking.

For more information contact Tricia Alexander at: 918-852-0017 or by email at: patricia.alexander@creekhealth.org.

## SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD DINNER SET FOR JUNE 6

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Jim Thorpe Association in conjunction with other entities will host the 29 annual Scholar-Athlete Awards June 6, at 7 p.m. at the Jim Thorpe Museum Jeanne and Bob Naifeh and Bud Wilkinson Event Center located at 4040 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

For more information contact Patti Millican at: 405-427-1400.

## RED EARTH FESTIVAL PARADE SET FOR JUNE 7

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Red Earth Festival Parade is scheduled for June 7 at 10 a.m.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Public Relations Department will coordinate the MCN entry in this event and are encouraging various tribal members to make their own entry.

Information can be found at [www.redearth.org](http://www.redearth.org), however PR will combine all the entries under one registration. Do not register on the website. Please contact LuAnn Bear at: 918-732-7632.

## PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED JUNE 11 FOR THREE YEAR PLAN PRESENTATION

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A public hearing to present and discuss the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) three year plan will be held June 11 at 10 a.m. at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

The MCN three year plan is for the expenditure of interest earnings on the trust funds in the custody of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and will for the years 2014-2016.

The plan is typically utilized for purposes of support for tribal government, education, economic development and social services.

## NATIVE COLLEGE FAIR SET FOR JUNE 11

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Native American College Fair is scheduled for June 11 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Glenpool Indian Community Building in Glenpool, Okla.

The fair will feature a variety of regional and Native colleges and is open to all Native Americans.

For more information contact Tricia Alexander at: 918-852-0017 or by email at: patricia.alexander@creekhealth.org.

# Building the future by visiting the past

## Community garden at CMN a joint effort between MCN citizens of all ages

Eulala Pegram  
MCN Citizen

A garden created by The Muscogee Community Food Security Project was cultivated by a group representing four generations. The group set out to plant and harvest a traditional Creek garden as a college credit project, which was instigated by Cassandra Thompson, a student at College of Muscogee Nation (CMN).

Thompson implemented the project to earn a required service learning project credit for her Native American studies degree. She was responsible for planning, organizing and implementing all the elements of the project, however she understood that the total project was truly community guided.

Under course guidelines, she was to facilitate, research and document information for the project of her choice. First, she organized what became the multi-generational Mvskoke Community Food Security group made up of college students, young adults, youth and elders.

In the beginning, a group of eight Mvskoke elders from the Okemah Indian community agreed to meet twice a week throughout the semester to discuss and tell stories about gardening and traditional food ways.

At CMN, Cassandra and seven volunteer students initiated a garden club to improve the Eco Cultural Garden already in existence at the college.

During the project, the elders enjoyed having a place to go and an opportunity to share stories about their families and how Mvskoke communities, ceremonies and churches have evolved over time. All the activities of the project were documented in a journal to be left at CMN's library for future generations.

The college group usually met Wednesdays at lunchtime throughout the semester to develop and design a garden, educate themselves on food security



Photo Submission

From left to right: Mitchell Harjo, Michael Berryhill, Stephanie Jeffords (Medicine Rock Inc.), Raymond Bevenue and Casandra Thompson.

issues and implement the actual garden.

Both groups worked together on garden activities on during these workdays. The college group focused on a designing an eco cultural garden and the elders focused on various categories of traditional foods and dishes.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the elder group featured one food group, shared recipes and a dish was often prepared by one of the elders. The group utilized a calendar of activities created at the Okemah Elderly Nutrition Building as well as a Facebook page and weekly updates to aid in organization and communication.

The CMN garden group named themselves Enke Etske Lane, which means Mother of the Green Hand in Mvskoke.

The group drafted a design to determine what would be planted in the garden and they discussed ways to start seeds. This process involved small containers made of material that would eventually decompose into the ground and become compost for the seeds as they sprouted and grew.

The students were very diligent in conforming to the ecological cycle involved in growing food. They started compost areas using coffee and tea grinds donated by the MCN Elderly Nutrition Program in Okmulgee.

They built a fence out of recycled pallets donated by the MCN Food Distribution Program to protect the garden from hungry animals and utilized paper donated by the MCN En-

vironmental Protective Services for compost.

At the college, the garden club worked together, developing accountability for accomplishing their goals and determined how to reach those goals and create a core organization. Jobs and titles were assigned. In order to meet her course credit requirements, Cassandra was named core organizer.

The group adopted the Native American Student Association (NASA) Food Bill of Rights and began working on establishing the club through the CMN Student Senate.

To get input, from community citizens they created a Community Food Security dot survey focusing on the importance of our access to traditional foods. The club was able to present the survey and eco gardening tips at the Alabama-Quarsatte Environmental fair and CMN.

All semester, the majority of their meetings were spent finding resources and tools, however they were eventually able to gather a few tools through student donations.

Through technology and social media, the club was able to update followers and gain volunteers. This part of the project is expected to continue at CMN.

Extra garden activities included two nature walks, a seed starter class, education in community food assessment and an eco-gardening presentation. Their nature walks included participants of all ages, walking, talking, discussing and asking and answering questions.

A strong cultural component of this project was community

building and the encouragement of cultural continuity. Storytelling was very much a part of the activities and tribal language was used frequently in discussions of seeds, plants, activities, food, seasons, etc. The Okemah and Okmulgee groups prepared their soils and have created a small community of people that share a common goal of protecting our food system.

Now as the semester comes to an end and summer semester begins, the Etske Enke Lane group will finish planting and tend to the garden. They have not determined what to do with food their garden produces but are simply focusing on making it a successful project.

The elders group is continuing work on their community garden and has adopted the Tuesdays and Thursdays as their garden workdays. They plan to expand it this year and get involved in the farmers market so they can continue doing garden activities.

A sample experiences the group had together can be seen on the project's Mvskoke Community Food Security Project Facebook page entry posted by Cassandra April 21.

“We took a few elders on a nature ride today! For two hours they rode through trails at Medicine Rock, Inc., located in Dustin, Oklahoma. Their presence and knowledge enriched the experience, because while we were able to identify plants and trees they were able to tell stories of (the plants/trees) medicinal (use) and purpose. We couldn't think of a more beautiful day to spend with our elders and nature: both have knowledge rooted deep in our culture that's just waiting for us to discover!”

The passion, knowledge, energy and organizational skill of Etske Enke Lane and the Okemah Seniors group encourages us to hope that the Mvskoke people will weather not only the current threat of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's), commercial fertilizer and loss of our traditional food but will answer the call to return to a strong practice and knowledge of agricultural to our tribe. Hopefully this will give us a hope of surviving and thriving in the future as we did so successfully in the past.

# Terrorist threat charges against Hickory Ground protester dismissed

## Grand Jury finds lack of probable cause for threat charges against Gray

Media Release

WETUMPKA, Ala. — An Alabama Grand Jury has dismissed a terrorist threat charge against Muscogee (Creek) citizen Wayland Gray citing a lack of probable cause. The charge was made against Gray after he was arrested Feb. 15 for trespassing while attempting to access a casino expansion site belonging to the Poach Band of Creek Indians (PBCI).

The arrest was made when Gray, two other members of the Muscogee (Creek) Hickory Ceremonial Ground and a Cherokee man travelled onto the site to pray for the ground member's ancestors who's remains were exhumed as part of a PBCI ca-

sino expansion project.

The Alabama District Court in Wetumpka, Ala. sent Gray's case to a grand jury March 20 to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to prosecute him for the charge of making a terrorist threat.

A video was presented to the jury showing Gray and the other men at the site singing traditional Muscogee (Creek) songs and PBCI officers making the arrest. At the end of the video Gray makes the comment, “We will be back. After this casino is torn down, we will be back.”

After evaluating evidence provided by PBCI officials, the grand jury determined there was no probable cause to prosecute Gray for making a terrorist threat and remanded the case May 1 to the district court. A hearing is scheduled May 14 to address the criminal trespassing charges against Gray and the other three men.

Currently, there is a federal civil lawsuit filed on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) to halt a PBCI casino construction project on the original location of the Hickory Ground Tribal Town.

Brendan Ludwick, who represents the MCN in this case, commented on the remaining trespassing charges.

“It's hard to understand why the state would prosecute them for trespassing, because the state claims the PBCI lacks title to the land. The Muscogee (Creek) should be entitled to access the ceremonial ground for religious purposes under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.”

Gray and the other men recently received a notice from the PBCI that states:

‘...the Tribal Council voted to exclude you from all tribal lands (all trust lands and any other lands owned by the Poach Band of Creek Indians, including, but

not limited to, Creek Casino Montgomery, Creek Casino Wetumpka, Wind Creek Casino and Hotel, and Tribal Council Offices Located on Highway 21, Atmore, Alabama).

The exclusion from the above stated properties is effective immediately and shall remain in effect permanently. Any violation of this exclusion from tribal lands could result in prosecution.’

To view a video of the arrest visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0S3a\\_chc1M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0S3a_chc1M).

### CORRECTION

In a story entitled 'Creek veteran travels to Asia to honor the fallen,' which ran in the May 1, 2013 edition of the *Muscogee Nation News (MNN)*, Merrill Bevenue was inadvertently misidentified as Richard Bevenue. The *MNN* regrets this error.





MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKEKE MEDIA

Tornado impacts Native American community

Pastor details impact of storm on church and community

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Contributor

MOORE, Okla. – First Indian Baptist Church held its regular Wednesday service just two days after an EF5 tornado crushed their hometown May 20 killing 24 people in the area.

Other than a few missing shingles, the church sustained no major damage.

“The devastation was about four blocks north of us,” said Pastor Victor Cope. “We have some good people and they do pray.”

No one from the 135-member congregation was killed, however three families lost their homes.

The newest member of the congregation, Sonia Hernandez, had moved to Moore a few weeks earlier after retiring as a schoolteacher in Arizona. She lived beside Plaza Towers Elementary School, where the storm claimed the lives of seven children.

“All she had left of her house was nothing but a slab. Her area was being used to take out the



First Indian Baptist Church Member Perrin Deal sits next to her home, which was demolished by a tornado that hit Moore, Okla., May 20.

bodies of the kids,” Cope said.

Tim and Perrin Deal were at work when the tornado hit.

After their house was gone, Tim and Perrin were looking for different things the next day and found items that were precious to them. They had some people approach them and said, ‘we are going to help’ but it was up to the individual property owner

to be able to clean up their own property and were quoted a price of \$7,000 dollars to clean up the debris,” Cope said. “But Tim was approached by the Baptist General Convention Disaster Relief, they said they would take care of it for them. He was so relieved. When you have people say they’re going to help in this manner do it; it

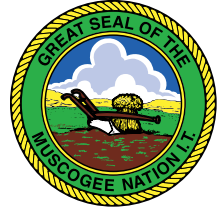
means so much.”

The atmosphere of Wednesday evening’s service was not one of sorrow.

“It was about how we could help our members and our community. We’re an Indian congregation in a lower to upper middle class neighborhood and how we got it

MOORE - 2

JUNE 15, 2013  
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BLACKBERRY MONTH



Tribal Transit program sees 100 percent annual growth

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It’s designed to operate much the same as any other bus transit program.

But, it picks up people at various locations in Muskogee (Creek) country and delivers them to their destination at a very affordable price. The Muskogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Transit program serves riders in the 11 tribal counties.

That’s according to Charlie LaSarge, Manager of the MCN Transit program.

“It’s just to give people a way to get to wherever they need to go for a small charge. There are a lot of our tribal members who ride it to Wal-Mart. They ride it to doctor’s appointments. They ride it to clinics, just anywhere they need transportation. They call us to set up an appointment to pick them up.”

LaSarge says they team up with the familiar Ki Bois Area Transit System (KATS) to serve the 11 districts in the nation. The transit program uses a special Federal Transit Administration 5311 grant to contract with KATS to serve the area and anybody who calls for service. KATS vehicles extend the reach of the Transit service by responding to calls when a tribal vehicle may not be in the area.

Under its ‘Ride-To-Work’ program for MCN employees, three routes have been established to serve tribal workers. Employees in Wetumka, Eufaula and Glenpool can ride a regularly scheduled bus for three dollars round trip, saving money for fuel and vehicle maintenance.

LaSarge felt that success was due to getting the word out and impacts of the economy.

“The turn-around is that

TRANSIT - 3

Native American Ministers serve in crisis areas

A time to comfort amidst weather devastation

Gerald Wofford  
MNN Contributor

SHAWNEE, Okla. - Pastor Ben Little felt the call of God in his life 13 years ago.

He has been a pastor at Sallateeska Baptist Church in Shawnee for five years. In that time, Little has had to comfort many Native American families facing tragedies, from personal matters to forces of nature.

Sunday, May 19 found the Creek-Seminole/Absentee Shawnee minister fulfilling those duties after a tornado touched down in the Shawnee area.

“It came on pretty quick from the Norman area and there was plenty of warning. They (weathermen) did a good job of letting



A tree uprooted by a tornado that passed through the Shawnee area May 19.

people know. It just came across I-40 by the Grand Casino here,” said Little, who lives five miles southeast of the area where the tornado hit.

After the storm passed, he took a tour of the devastated area, which included a trailer park that was demolished. The

storm took the lives of two people.

Little’s work of ministering began that evening but his and other Native American ministers in the area had just begun.

Little has worked with Chickasaw Pastor Bryce Scott of Corner Stone Indian

Baptist Church in nearby Little Axe, Okla. Pastor Victor Cope from First Indian Baptist in Moore, Okla., and Choctaw minister Bruce Jacob with the Southern Baptist Chaplains office in Oklahoma City.

May 20 marked another memorable chapter in the history book of Oklahoma tornados as a classified EF-5 cyclone with winds up to 200 mph struck the nearby town of Moore, Okla.

The destruction of the Moore tornado, like Shawnee, left businesses and homes demolished. Currently, the death toll stands at 24 according to the Medical Examiners in Oklahoma City.

Scott explained that the church is setting up a clothing drive to help not only Native Americans but all people affected in the area. They are working closely with the Absentee-Shawnee

CRISIS - 2





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CRISIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tribe, whose offices are nearby.

Cope serves on the Indian Falls Creek Convention Board. With his church being based in Moore, he is serving as one of the many counselors at ‘ground zero.’

Jacob is an official chaplain there as well and has been comforting people as much as he can while taking the responsibility of sharing the news of loved ones that did not survive.

No matter the tragedy, Little says Indian pastors have to be ready to help.

“We try to minister to them to rely on their faith and trust in God, to comfort them through prayer. Something good can still come out of this and turning to God during these times of trouble; they can rebuild. We let them know that many in Oklahoma and around the world are there to support them.”

If you are interested in donating clothing to Corner Stone Indian Baptist Church, call: 405-912-0044.

Expo Center to bear River Spirit name



MNN/File Photo

The Tulsa Fairgrounds Expo Center, formerly known as the Quick Trip Expo Center will soon bear the name of Muscogee (Creek) Nation River Spirit Casino.

Creek casino signs deal to rename Expo Center at Tulsa Fairgrounds.

Gary Fife | MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA, Okla.— The Tulsa Fairgrounds Expo Center will have a new name with ties to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) after a second attempt.

The facility will sport the name 'River Spirit Expo Center.'

An earlier effort in December 2012 between the MCN and the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority (TCPFA) did not work out due to the issue of horse racing.

On May 28, the TCPFA Board agreed to a proposal for the naming rights of the Expo Center with the MCN-owned River Spirit Casino (RSC).

In a TCPFA release, John Smaligo, Chairman of the TCPFA board, said they were happy to work with a “long standing supporter of Expo Square and the Tulsa State Fair.”

The new deal calls for a financial commitment of \$20,000 per month for the term of the agreement from RSC.

“Our vision for Expo Square is to provide attractions in a safe and clean environment for our guests. Aligning our brands with River Spirit Casino is a catalyst to improve this unique facility, making it better for today and the future,” said Mark Andrus, President/CEO of Expo Square.

“River Spirit Casino is very proud to partner with the Expo Square on this opportunity to extend the River Spirit brand,” said RSC General Manager Jerry Floyd.

He explained their interest in the renaming agreement.

“We’re constantly looking for marketing alliances with top notch organization. On the local level, we look for the brightest and the best opportunities to align the MCN

River Spirit Casino with those entities.”

Floyd said the Expo Center is a major landmark in Tulsa and a great business opportunity.

“It’s one of the most premier organizations and entities and busiest buildings. That’s why we were interested in joining up and working something out so that we could advertise our casino and improve that name presence in the local market as well.”

Floyd added that the RSC was not part of the first discussions between the MCN and the Expo Center governing board. But he noted, that funds to pay for that renaming deal would have come out of gaming revenues. This deal, he added, would have nothing to do with the horse racing business.

The RSC did move when the opportunity came to market the casino itself and received approval from the tribal government to pursue a contract.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger saw the agreement as beneficial to both the casino and tribe.

“I think it’s a very good deal for River Spirit as well as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I believe it helps market who we are as Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Had it not been for the MCN, we wouldn’t have River Spirit, so I think it’s a good thing.”

Complications over continuation of horse racing at the Expo Center proved to be too big a hurdle for that agreement to succeed. Tiger said, this deal has no connection to that activity.

Tiger agreed that naming the facility the River Spirit Expo works in several ways.

“The center itself hosts, throughout the year, a number of great events. Whenever they’re being promoted, it recognizes the name of the Expo. In this case, it’ll be River Spirit Expo Center. It’s just a great marketing tool. I believe it’s a good investment and I believe, as far as River Spirit; they’ll get a return on their investment.”

When asked about events he would like to see there, Tiger laughed, “I want to have a big old wild onion dinner there.”

MOORE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

here; I’m not sure. But we always want to do what we can to be supportive to our community because they have been supportive of us. Everyone just wanted to pull together.

“The young people that were here, they go to Moore Schools and some of them were in lock down in their schools when the tornado hit. We had two graduate from Moore on Saturday night. Everyone came together on that Wednesday to find out what are we are going to do and everyone was willing to do what needed to

received offers of assistance from volunteers such as a college football team in Georgia and members of the Lumbee Nation in South Carolina; who have helped other churches around the country affected by disasters.

“They (Lumbee) are one of our largest Christian associations that we have among our Indian people.”

Cope serves as the Indian education director of Tecumseh Public Schools and executive director of Indian Falls Creek, a Christian summer retreat



Submission/Victor Cope

First Indian Baptist Church Member Tim Deal sorts through scattered belongings near his home, which was demolished by a tornado that hit Moore, Okla., May 20.

be done. Some of our ladies even fixed a big meal for those affected on that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights,” Cope said.

Cope, who is Muscogee (Creek), Absentee-Shawnee and a citizen of the Pottawatomie Nation said the following Sunday service was more of a healing time for everyone.

“We had Sunday school, worship time and a message. The unique time came when we had an invitation. The families that had lost everything came forward and wanted to say something. We had a full house that day. Even people that had no damage were affected by this terrible event.

“We had been through this type of tragedy before, in ’99. We thought we were going to get hit then, but we escaped damage and then there was one a few years ago that we escaped also. But in '99 we had seven people lose their homes,” he said.

Cope says his church has

owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Due to the Midwest’s reputation for tornadic activity, Cope recalls a mission trip to Montana on the Blackfoot reservation a few summers ago where he was asked by residents about living in 'tornado alley.'

“ ‘Pastor,’ ” Cope recalls them saying, “ ‘how can you stand living there? How can you stand those tornadoes? Aren’t you scared?’ ”

Cope responded to their inquiry.

“I then asked them, ‘I don’t know why you guys want to live here. You said the winds come up off the eastern slope of the Rockies sometimes at 70 miles-per-hour and you have snow up to your ears.’

“I started to spell a word out to them; I spelled the word home and they laughed and said, ‘yes I guess so; ain’t it?’ I said, ‘yep that’s it; it’s home.’ ”

MCN Emergency Response Team helps with evacuations

Local flooding forces family to evacuate homes and businesses

Darren DeLaune | MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Emergency Response Team (ERT) responded to a call June 1 from the Okmulgee County Office of Emergency Management to assist with evacuations in Henryetta and Dewar, Okla.

MCN Emergency Management Manager James Nichols recalled the events.

“Our response team was called out about 4:45 a.m. Saturday morning to assist with the evacuations,” he said. “We were

told of the major flooding and was asked for our assistance.”

The flooding, caused by heavy rainfall in the late night hours of Friday and the early morning hours of Saturday, caused Coal Creek to swell up sweeping multiple cars from the roads and submerging others.

Businesses in Henryetta such as McDonald’s and Wal-Mart were surrounded by water. Employees and customers had to stay in the businesses due to the massive flooding.

ERT members, along with MCN Lighthorse Police officers took their rescue boats along Coal Creek in Dewar to get to the homes of the residents needing evacuation. Some residents were evacuated. While others were checked on to make sure they were okay.

No injuries were reported.



TRANSIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN/Gary Fife  
One of two full size buses for long distance charters belonging to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Program.

we did a lot of PR (public relations) on it. Before, there wasn't a lot of PR on it. Tribal members didn't know of our transit system. I've been to several community meetings and discussed the transit system with the chairmen and their boards. I explained to them what our routes were, how it costs fifty cents in the daytime to ride to Wal-Mart. If you were riding a cab back in the old days, it wouldn't be less than three dollars."

He credits a monthly voucher system for making fares more easily manageable and popular with riders.

All in all, LaSarge is satisfied with the results they've been able to achieve. Part of the popularity of the service is because many of the drivers speak the Mvskoke language.

"I'm sure there are times when they pick up elderly people that feel more free to speak the language with our drivers."

Kogee Spaniard is the transportation specialist. She confirmed the use of the Mvskoke language for putting some passengers at ease.

"We serve a lot of the elderly. Sometimes, they're a little bit more comfortable when they're trying to get their point across on where they want to go or what they want to do. Not only do we transport tribal members, we also transport any member of any tribe. A lot of times you're out there and you're getting to meet people from different tribes. Some of them are not even from Oklahoma. Maybe they're just here going to school, so it's not just Creek tribal citizens; it's any tribal member."

The Transit program also provides long-distance transportation for passengers attending events out of town or even outside the state of Oklahoma. The two familiar coaches bearing the seal of the MCN, have traveled all across the country to places like Washington, D.C. and even into Canada. One of the buses even participated in a parade in Montana.

LaSarge feels customer satisfaction is their goal.

"I just hope that they're pleased, happy, nothing negative has happened. We really look forward to serving all the schools and the elderly programs within the tribe. Hopefully, when they get back from one of our trips, they're fully satisfied with our services. That means they'll be back for more trips."

Red Hicks is a coach operator for the program. He's one of the drivers that drives the motor coach on the longer trips around the state and cross-country.

He speaks Mvskoke and makes his passengers comfortable with that linguistic ability.

Hicks gives the passengers safety briefings and offers his services to make them comfortable.

Hicks points out that they Muscogee drivers are not limited to just driving the bus.

"When I go out, I do everything I can for them. I tell them when I get on the bus, 'I'm here to help you.' Because in the past, I think, I'm not sure, there were non-Indian drivers. They would just take these people to the hotel and then they would just leave and come back and pick them up, which we don't do. When we get there, I'm with them. I stay at the same motel with them; I eat with them. Whatever events we're doing, I join them. That's what they like about me; I'm one of them, not just a bus driver."

The Transit program has a spotless safety record, something they're quite proud of. The supportive administration has made the service one that's made its riders comfortable.

The statistics show that popularity.

In 2011, the program made about 25,000 passenger trips. In 2012 the transit program made over 49,000 passenger trips, doubling the previous year, traveling more than 350,000 miles.

That's a 100 percent increase in usage in a single year.

# Pinot's Palette brings new fun, excitement to Riverwalk



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
Local artist and instructor Jordan Sears explains the instructions on what her class needs to do for their painting of 'The River's Edge,' May 31 at Pinot's Palette.

## New business makes beginner's artistic dreams a reality.

Darren DeLaune / MNN Reporter

JENKS, Okla. — "If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means, paint, and that voice will be silenced." - Vincent Van Gogh

Some might have considered painting their own masterpiece but thought they couldn't accomplish it.

With the newest business being open in the Riverwalk, not only are people able to do that, they can and have fun also.

Pinot's Palette opened its doors in April and is bringing something new and exciting to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Owner Lisa Riley is excited about her new location and the things to come for not only her business but the Riverwalk too.

"We are an upscale painting and wine-sipping studio for adults," Riley said. "We walk people in step-by-step instructions while listening to rock and pop music."

What makes this business so enjoyable for the customer is that they do not have to have any experience in painting. This is where beginners come to learn how to paint.

"You do not have to have any artistic ability whatsoever,"

Riley said. "That is what makes this place great. Our instructors are local artists and they will tell you what to do and how to do it. They are there to help at anytime during the session."

Riley chose the Riverwalk location because at one time she remembers how it used to be alive and booming with numerous amounts of people walking around and having a great time.

"I am originally from Bixby, so I have been here all my life," Riley said. "When I left here and moved to Houston, this place was very busy. When I came back to Tulsa, this place was dead. Nothing was going on here at all. I chose this place because the Creek Nation is going to be doing some great and exciting things and I want Pinot's Palette to help out and to be a part of what is going to be happening here."

What draws people to the studio is the fact that they have never painted before and want to learn how and have fun at the same time.

"This is our second location for Pinot's Palette here in the Tulsa area," Riley said. "Our first location is on Cherry Street in Tulsa. At that time we opened in Tulsa we were the third franchise for Pinot's Palette. For the Riverwalk, we are the 18th franchise open. That shows that Pinot's Palette is growing and not slowing down. This is a great place for date night. If you want to try something new this is the

place to do that."

Carla High, who has been to Pinot's Palette more than once, loves everything about the new business.

"This is my first time being here at this location (Riverwalk)," High said. "It has been excellent here. The location is convenient and we are relaxing and having a great time with friends. I will be coming back here a lot more in the near future."

Jordan Sears, who is one of the local artists that teaches at Pinot's Palette, explained why she wanted to teach.

"I have been painting for about five years now," Sears said. "At first, I never thought I could teach. I felt I was the worst at explaining things to anyone but I love to interact with people. Teaching people what I know. I want to show them what I learn and spread that knowledge. It is super fun to come out here and teach the customers how to paint and enjoy the painting."

Pinot's Palette offers a variety of events for everyone. While the studio is mainly geared towards adults, they also have camps for kids.

"We can do a lot of things," Riley said. "We host birthday parties, corporate events, bachelorette parties and family gatherings. We are also having a kid's camp here in the month of June. This is what we do. We sell fun!"

For more information on booking an event please go to [www.PinotsPalette.com](http://www.PinotsPalette.com).

## MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program announces scholarships

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. – The deadline to apply is approaching for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program.

The Mahaley Tarpalechee Jones Scholarship, the Ridge/Giles Scholarship for Single Mothers, and the Susan Colleen Wilson Memorial Scholarship all have a deadline of June 28. However, the application process is continuous until scholarships reach appropriate levels.

The Mahaley Tarpalechee Jones was established to encourage and assist a non-traditional student reestablish the opportunity of higher education. Jones was a full-blood Mvskoke, fluent speaker of the Mvskoke language and a mother who recognized the importance and value of education. The recipient must be an enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizen, completed at least one semester or trimester of college, and attending an

institution of higher education including technical and vocational schools. The amount is \$500.

The Ridge/Giles Scholarship for Single Mothers is a source of empowerment for women who have a vision in pursuing a post-secondary education. The Scholarship was created in recognition of the marriage between Cherrah Ridge, first woman to serve as Second Speaker of the National Council, and Justin Giles, first Assistant Director of the MCN Museum and Cultural Center. The Scholarship is awarded to a single mother who will be attending an institution of higher education, technical school, or a vocational trade school. The recipient must be an enrolled citizen of the MCN, single mother with a least one child in the household, and provide proof of enrollment in a post-secondary institution. The scholarship is \$1,500 per academic year.

The Susan Colleen Wilson Memorial Scholarship was created as a memorial to a special person and mother, Susan Colleen Wilson. In her honor, a scholarship was established and will be awarded to a Muscogee (Creek) student who has lost at least one parent. The recipient must be an enrolled citizen of the MCN, have at least one surviving parent, and who is attending an institution of higher education, including technical and vocational trade school. The scholarship is \$500.

A scholarship application is available on the Foundation Program website at [creeknation-foundationinc.org](http://creeknation-foundationinc.org). Applications can be turned in at the Education & Training Building to Elsa Fraser, Administrative Assistant or fax to 918-732-7728. For more information, contact Fraser at 918- 732-7754 or [efraser@mcnnsn.gov](mailto:efraser@mcnnsn.gov) or Dr. Pete G. Coser at 918-732-7755 or [pcoser@mcnnsn.gov](mailto:pcoser@mcnnsn.gov).

## MCN SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED



Mvskoke Media/Amanda Rutland  
Seven young women competed for the titles of Miss and Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) at the 37th Annual Scholarship Pageant June 1 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa. L: Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Breana Hill, R: Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Rachael Sourjohn.





www.creekfestival.com

# MVSKOKE NATION

## Festival

June 20-23

## MNN Preview

We  
Are  
Musoke

### Schedule of Events

#### Saturday, June 15

6 a.m. Muscogee (Creek) Bass Classic - Lake Eufaula, Eufaula, Okla.

8 a.m. Slow Pitch Softball Tournament - MCN Claude A. Omnplex, Oklmugee, Okla.

#### Thursday, June 20

7:30 p.m. Stompdance - South of the MCN Tribal Complex Mound Building, Okmulgee, Okla.

8 p.m. 'The Dawes Comssion' a theater production - Mound Building

#### Friday, June 21

8 a.m. Fountainhead Golf Tournament - Fountainhead Golf Course, U.S. Highway 150, Checota, OK

8 a.m. Junior Olympics - 601 E. 12th St., Okmulgee, OK

8 a.m. Senior Citizen Activities - MCN Senior Housing, Poloske Circle, Okmulgee, OK

9 a.m. Traditional Skills - West of the Mound Building

10 a.m. Children's Fun Fair - Claude A. Omnplex

5 p.m. Arts and Crafts/Food Vendors - Claude A. Omnplex

5:30 p.m.

**Smilin' Vic and the Soul Monkeys**

**TJ Hamilton**

**Kinsey Sadler**

6 p.m. Fast Pitch Softball Tournament - Claude A. Omnplex

6 p.m. All Indian Rodeo - Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena, Claude A. Ominplex

8 p.m. 'The Dawes Comssion' a theater production - Mound Building

9:30 p.m.

**Aaron Lewis**

## 2013 Festival to feature new events and attractions

**Sterling Cosper**  
MNN Reporter

**OKMULGEE, Okla.** — Attendees of the upcoming 2013 Mvskoke Nation Festival, June 20-23 themed, 'We Are Mvskoke' can anticipate several new events and attractions, including a four story Ferris wheel.

"That is kind of the iconic piece to our carnival now. I think it is going to be appealing to the eye and...something memorable once dusk starts to get here and the lights go on," said Musocgee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe.

### Mvskoke Theater The Dawes Comission



The Creek play is returning to the Festival after a period of absence

This year's play on the Dawes Commission will be directed by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bob Hicks and performed at the MCN Tribal Complex Mound Building, June 15, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m.

"The setting will be at the Harjo family farm in 1904," Hicks said. "This Dawes agent with an interpreter arrives at the farm to try to persuade them to accept this allotment."

The purpose of the Dawes Commission was to persuade the relocated Five Civilized Tribes to accept a policy, which divided tribal lands into allotments owned by individual tribal members rather than living in communally held Indian territory.

"The bottom line is that, dividing up Indian lands into allotments gave the government a surplus of those lands to be used to build cities and railroads," Hicks said. "The European culture believed that you should own your own property but the Indian culture didn't believe you could own real estate. They were able to force the to take allotment and as a result, it was a disaster for all tribes."

The lines from the production will be predominantly spoken in the Mvskoke Language.

"During the play itself, when the audience is there, I will have an interpretation through a PowerPoint; kind of like subtitles in a movie," Hicks said.

Hicks, who also won first place in the short subject category at the 2012 Mvskoke Film Festival, explained why he wrote the production in Mvskoke.

"I always thought it would be great for all of the old people to come and see a play in all Creek," he said. "I wasn't able to accomplish that until now and the language is almost gone. I was lucky enough to find people that speak the language and I've got an eight-year-old girl that speaks Creek."

#### Saturday, June 22

7 a.m. Fountainhead Golf Tournament 4-Man Scramble - Fountainhead Golf Course, U.S. Highway 150, Checota, OK

8 a.m. 5K Walk/Run - MCN Tribal Complex, Intersection of U.S. Highway 75 and Loop 56

9 a.m. Youth 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament - Okmulgee High-school Gymnasium, 316 E. 8th St., Okmulgee, OK

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Council House Art Market - MCN Council House lawn, 100 W. 6th St., Okmulgee OK

10 a.m. Festival Parade - 6th St., Okmulgee OK

10 a.m. Children's Fun Fair - Claude A. Omnplex

10 a.m. Children Safety Seat Check - MCN Tribal Complex

11 a.m. Arts and Crafts/Food Vendors - Claude A. Omnplex

#### Sat. Afternoon

2-6 p.m. Creek Hymn and Gospel Singing - Mound Building

2-4 p.m. 'Swamp People' RJ and Jay Paul Molinere - Festival Gift Shop, Claude A. Omnplex, across from the amphitheater

3 p.m. Traditional Corn Stalk Shoot - West of the Mound Building along U.S. Highway 75

6-8 p.m. All Indian Rodeo Finals - Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena, Claude A. Ominplex

7: 30 p.m.

**Natalie Cole**

9 p.m.

**Smokey Robinson**

#### Sunday, June 23

8 a.m. Fast Pitch Softball Tournament - Claude A. Omnplex



### Bass Classic

A new event featured this year will be the Muscogee (Creek) Bass Classic, scheduled on Father's Day June 16 at Lake Eufaula in Eufaula, Okla., prior to the main weekend of the Festival.

"We are promoting it as a father/son type deal," said Lowe.

The event will feature a payout of \$10,000 if the limit of 50 boats is met. A \$1,000 prize for biggest fish will be presented if 30 boats participate. One hundred fishing poles will also be given away to the children of participants on a first-come first-serve basis.

The event sponsored by the MCN, will payout \$2,500 on top of all the money taken in from the \$150 per team entry fee in the form of prizes, if the entry limit is met.

"Typically, those putting on a fishing tournament will keep a portion of the entry fee for operating costs; so a lot of organizations do these things for profit," said Tournament Director Matt Lahren.

Lowe believes the tournament will draw anglers from another fishing tournament at the lake, which ends the day before the Bass Classic and that this continued participation will payout to the Eufaula community as well as tournament participants.

"The main message in all this, is that it would help Eufaula's economy by keeping those guests in their hotel," he said.

Registration forms can be found on the Festival website home page toward the bottom posted May 9 at: [www.creekfestival.com](http://www.creekfestival.com).

Coordinators would like the \$150 registration fee submitted by check a week before the event.

"If we don't fill up then people can come with cash the day of the event," said Lahren.

An informative meeting for the tournament will also be held at South Point in Eufaula Cove June 15 at 6 p.m.



### Art Market

This year's Council House Art Market, which is scheduled June 22 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., will be under the direction of the MCN Museum and Cultural Center rather than the Creek Indian Memorial Association.

The Council House was purchased by the MCN from the City of Okmulgee, Nov. 12, 2010 and the Nation terminated

the management of the facility by the Creek Indian Memorial Association, May 2, 2012.

The Nation recently placed direction of the facility under the MCN Museum and Cultural Center and the art market is the first of many plans the Cultural Center has for the historic property.

"The Council House is going to be closed for a full makeover; so this art market is really the first event to bring attention to the new management of the Council House," said MCN Museum and Cultural Center Assistant Director Justin Giles.

With the Council House back in the hands of the MCN, the Cultural Center is projecting a Mvskoke theme with this year's art market, which is also in line with this year's Festival.

"We are keeping the market in tune with our Festival theme, which is 'We Are Mvskoke,'" said Giles. "With that in mind we have just all Mvskoke artists at the market."

There are a total of 30 booth spaces available for Muscogee (Creek) citizens, some of which have already been filled.

"I have about 15 right now," Giles said.

Mvskoke artists can obtain a downloadable registration packet on the Festival website by clicking on the 'Experience' tab and going to the 'Arts and Crafts' link. The packet can be found on that page.

"The deadline to register is June 14. This is completely free for artists," Giles said. "We are not charging them for a booth space, taking any of their profits and we are not asking for any donation of objects."

Guests of the market can expect to see some of the same Mvskoke artists present at the Mvskoke Etlwv Festival held Nov. 15-17, 2012 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.

"Just like we did at the Smithsonian event, we want all of the artists and craftspeople demonstrating what they do as they are selling their wares," Giles said.

The market will feature a wide variety of Mvskoke art including: paintings, textiles, shell and can shakers and ballsticks.

Giles said the Cultural Center plans to have many more events like the market on the Council House lawn in the future.

"We are trying to bring the Council House back to its glory days when it was a meeting place."



[illegible]





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6.21



AARON LEWIS



KINSEY SADLER



TJ HAMILTON



SMILIN VIC

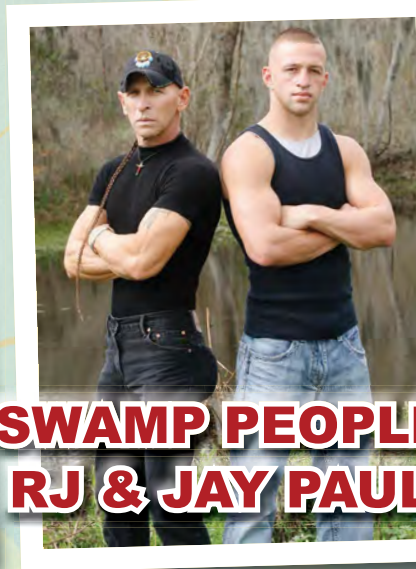
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## FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

**Sunday, June 16th**  
**NOON - 6:00PM:**  
**\$10 Match Play**  
 Each male Diamond Club member  
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Five (5) Hot Seat prize  
 drawings for \$100 free play  
 every ½ hour from 1:30PM -  
 5:00PM.

Two (2) cash prize Hot Seat  
 prize drawings every ½ hour  
 from 1:30PM - 5:00PM. Win  
 \$200 - \$500!

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 ticket drawing every 1/2 hour from  
 1:30PM - 8:00PM. Win cash prizes up to  
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# COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL EVENTS 2013

## CONGRATULATIONS 2013 GRADUATES

### Derrick Bender

Morris High School

Derrick participated in four years of football and basketball and one year of track. He received an invitation to the Wrangler Bowl and Jim Thorpe All-Star football game. He is enrolling at the College of the Muscogee Nation with concurrent enrollment at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology where he will be majoring in natural gas compression with a minor in tribal law enforcement.

He is a member of the Bear Clan, Big Cusseta Tribal Town and his parents are James and Michelle Bender.



### MCCOMBS FAMILY REUNION SET FOR JULY 6

EUFULA, Okla. — A McCombs family reunion will be held July 6, starting at 10 a.m. at the Eufaula Community Center located at 1st and High Street.

Please bring a covered dish for the potluck meal. Rev. William McCombs initiated these reunions in 1914 and his decedents have carried on the tradition.

### TCIC CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE SET

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community (TCIC) will be holding an election to fill the following positions: board of directors vice chairman and sergeant of arms and the business board chairman, secretary and treasurer.

All candidates will need to turn in a letter of intent and are required to complete a \$20 background check done by the TCIC at the candidate's own expense by July 17.

Any community member who has moved, changed phone numbers, email or any other contact information, please call the TCIC office at 918-298-2464.

### CULLY/LOWE RE-UNION SET FOR AUG. 10

KONAWA, Okla. — A Cully/Lowe family reunion is scheduled Aug. 10 at Konawa Park.

Family members are to bring food items for hamburgers, hotdogs and hot links by 10 a.m. for lunch to be served at 12 p.m.

Family members are also to bring a prize for bingo.

For more information contact Sheila Scott at: 405-452-3262.

### Mahli James McNac

Sequoyah High School

Mahli is a four-year letterman in basketball, was H.O.P.E. club vice-president and a member of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). He will be attending Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colo., in the fall to major in engineering.



He is a member of the Wind Clan, Tukabutche Tribal Town and his parents are Kevin and Ramona McNac.

### Aaron Christopher Stafford

Western Michigan University  
Bachelor of Science, Communications

Aaron was an intern in music and youth leadership at Centerpoint Church in Kalamazoo, Mich., all four years of school. He is grateful for the help from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation higher education funding.



He is a member of the Deer Clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. His parents are Leslie and Tim Scheffers and Keith Stafford, grandparents are Myra and Geronomo Starr of Oklmugee, Okla., great-grandparents are Louis and Blanche Alexander and his great-great grandparents are Ella Lois McIntosh, Sunda Taylor and John and Hettie Alexander.

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# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKEKE MEDIA

## Jim Thorpe Games bring Native athletes to Oklahoma

Games honor Thorpe, teach players about his legacy

Darren DeLaune  
MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — More than 1,500 athletes representing over 68 tribes traveled from as far as Minnesota to central Oklahoma June 9-15 to compete in the Jim Thorpe Native American Games. Executive Director of the Jim Thorpe Games Annetta Abbott, was happy with the games this year. “It is amazing how everything has turned out for this year,” Abbott said. “We are very proud of how everything is going and how everything is running smoothly.” The original intention was to have the games every two years ,however, due to positive feedback from all the participants in the first year; the event will now be held annually. According to Abbott, the mission of the games is to educate people about Jim Thorpe and his legacy. “...to show these kids what they can achieve. We all know that Thorpe came from a humble background from a farm outside of Prague, Oklahoma,” she



MNN/Darren DeLaune

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Department of Public Relations helped coordinate the participation of volunteers who carried out and unfurled a giant American flag June 14 during the Jim Thorpe Native American Games All Star Football Game.

said. “Even from that type of background, he achieved a level of greatness in all sports that he tried out.” This year’s games feature participants from five to 78-years-old. The events are designed for youth but there are competitions for adults as well. “We want to promote healthy lifestyles,” Abbott said. “These

games help with getting everyone something to be involved in. It has them work to a goal and teaches them discipline.” Bill Thorpe, son of Jim Thorpe was on hand to watch the Thorpe games. “I am real happy with the games,” Bill Thorpe said. “I think everybody is having a lot of fun. The biggest thing is that it is

giving an opportunity for all the participants to showcase their desires and abilities. We are planning to continue this for as long as possible.” Muscogee (Creek) citizen Noah Berryhill, who graduated from Sapulpa High School this year, played for the East All-

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JULY 1, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 13  
“HIYUCE”  
LITTLE HARVEST



Emvpunyv  
'One who tells a story'

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Do you think the feds heard us? In a recent notice, the Department of Justice says a report, “documents an unprecedented level of collaboration with tribal law enforcement, regular consultation on a crime fighting strategy, joint federal-tribal task forces, information sharing, training of investigators, and cross deputizing tribal police and prosecutors to enforce federal and tribal law.” The report, based on data from the U.S. Attorneys’ Offices within Indian Country jurisdiction, and FBI crime data from reservations, shows a 54 percent increase in Indian Country criminal prosecutions since fiscal year 2009. Tribes have long complained about the lack of federal follow-up on criminal cases. It’s about time we heard about cases going forward. But, tribes have to hold up their end of the deal. Things like a lack of witnesses and other complications have been part of the problem, too. We’re part of that fix. Our minority brothers and sisters are progressing—educationally, but the numbers show that our students are going the other way, unfortunately. Major gains among black and Latino students pushed their national high school graduation rates to near record levels. Native American students however, are not doing as well. Nationally, graduation rates for Native American students are sliding backwards, according to “Diplomas Count 2013,” an annual report released today by ‘Education Week.’ Roughly 51 percent of Native American students in the class of 2010 earned a high school diploma. That’s down from 54 percent in 2008, when graduation rates for the group reached their peak. Oklahoma boasts a graduation rate of 63 percent for Native American students – one of the highest in the country – and an overall rate of nearly

EMVPUNYV - 3

## Oklahoma Governor meets with tribal leaders at Riverspirit

Fallin discusses gaming revenue, tobacco compacts, water rights and more

Jason Salsman  
Multimedia Supervisor

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger facilitated a meeting between Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin and more than 25 Indian tribal leaders June 11 at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla., in an effort to bridge the communication gap between tribes and the state. “We believe this is a good start,” said Principal Chief Tiger. “One of the things we’ve proposed to the governor was having the ability for tribal nations to visit with her twice per year so we can all be on the same



Mvskeke Media/Christina Good Voice

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin met with more than 25 Indian tribal leaders June 11 at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

page on issues.” Those issues were discussed at length with the governor in the nearly two-hour closed-door meeting. Issues such as tobacco compacts, gaming revenue, water rights and the tribes’ cultural identities were at the forefront of the conversation. Fallin, who didn’t take questions from the media af-

terward, talked about her recognition of what these Nations bring to the negotiating table. “In Oklahoma, we appreciate and we respect the impact that our tribes have had upon our state’s economy, upon the jobs that have been created, certainly upon our culture in our state — keeping the history alive, the traditions alive

“The tribal government are important partners in helping us grow the prosperity of all of our Oklahoma citizens,” she said. For many of the tribal leaders, the meeting had heightened significance because the governor herself was in attendance, not a staff member or representative from the office. “It’s good to be able to sit down with the head of the state of Oklahoma, with heads of nations, the way it should be, instead of sending somebody to just pay pittance to us,” said Marshall Gover, President of the Pawnee Nation. Fallin was pleased with the meeting. “I just want to express my appreciation for all of the leaders coming together,” she said. “They have provided us with very useful information.”





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CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE
- EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
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- FEATURE WRITER  
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Candidate profile  
edition deadline set  
for Aug. 1

*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee Nation News will be featuring 2013 Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Representative Candidate profiles in an upcoming edition.

Candidate submissions should include full name of candidate, the district seat they are running for, their clan, tribal town, ceremonial ground, church, education and experience and campaign platform (150 word limit).

Candidates profile forms will be handed out and photos will be taken immediately upon filing July 15-17 at 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at the tribal conference room on the tribal complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Profile forms should be submitted digitally in a typed document to sjcosper@mcn-nsn.gov no later than Aug. 1 by 5 p.m.

Hand written and/or late forms will not be accepted.

For more information, call Sterling Cosper at: 918-732-7697.

Brasuell to retire after 14 years with MCN



Brasuell speaks to her former co-workers June 7 during her retirement luncheon at Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar.

Luncheon celebrates  
retirement of  
diabetes prevention  
coordinator

*Even Tansey/ Summer Youth*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — June 7 was a bittersweet day for employees of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Prevention Program as they celebrated the retirement of their program coordinator Johnnie Brasuell at the MCN owned Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar in Okmulgee.

Brasuell began her career in health as a physical education teacher. She joined the MCN in 1999. When she started at the Nation, Brasuell sought out to make changes in lives of others through diabetes prevention. Throughout her time as program coordinator, Brasuell showed dedication by making changes and impacting people throughout the tribe.

“I am planning to relax for a while at home,” Brasuell said. “Then in the fall get involved in something that I can contribute to, in terms of things that I love, like healthcare.”

Bert Robison, Health Sys-

tem Administrator of Eufaula Indian Health Clinic, opened the retirement luncheon for Brasuell with a prayer.

Rev. David Dunson, Manager of MCN Senior Services, led the invocation with a group of Creek singers who sang the Mvskoke Hymnal, Cesvs Purke Likan.

Lt. Seneca Smith, Secretary of Health with the MCN Division of Health (DOH), presented a letter on behalf of MCN Principal Chief Tiger.

“We’d like to thank Johnnie for all her hard work and dedication she has given, not only to the Department of Health, but to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a whole.”

Smith recalled some memories of his time with Brausell.

“I know there were several times she wanted to talk to me,” Smith said, “I would get in the office about eight o’clock in the morning and I would walk into a dark room and my coffee would be sitting there and Johnnie would be sitting there in the chair.”

Dr. Lawrence Vark, Acting Chief Medical Officer for the DOH, shared memories about Brasuell and named awards Brasuell has received throughout her career.

“She has been entirely dedicated to the tribe and has given us a program that we are extremely proud of and has helped literally thousands of people,” Vark said. “Johnnie has been a mentor for dozens of aspiring diabetes educators.”

Vark also presented a gift to Brasuell on behalf of the medical staff.

A former coworker of Brasuell’s, Scott Robison described her character.

“She was always that kind of person that was willing to support us,” Robertson said. “Our family, our kids, anything that we were involved in, she was compassionate about it and wanting to be a part of it. She is culturally sensitive. She taught her parrot how to sing Heleluyvn. She also had respect for her culture.”

After the luncheon, Brasuell shared hopes for the future of the MCN Diabetes Prevention Program.

“We need to continue to improve the provision of clinical care. We need to get more people in the education program. We need to move as quickly as possible to more prevention programs in all different age groups.”

CMN breaks ground on new student center



The College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) held a ground breaking ceremony June 10 for the college's new student center. Pictured are: Dr. James King CMN Regents Director for Institutional Effectiveness, Jerry Wilson, Executive Director for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Ramona Mason, CMN Board of Regents Chair, and CMN President Robert Bible.

College continues  
growth

*Gerald Wofford/ MNN Contributor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. – The College of the Muscogee Nation held a ground breaking ceremony June 10 for the college’s new student center.

The twenty thousand square foot center will cost \$5.6 million and will house a science lab, fitness center and a retractable three-classroom area that can transform into a conference room.

The addition to the campus is not the only factor CMN

will bring.

“As construction begins on this center, we will not only be providing education but jobs as well.”

CMN Board of Regents Director David King reflected Bible’s sentiment.

“We’re excited with what we’re able to do here,” said King “We’re thankful to the Council and the chief and their support in making this happen.”

Bible looked ahead to further expansion ventures.

“We have 25 acres to build on and we have other projects that we will create in the future,” said Bible.

THORPE  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Star team in the Jim Thorpe Native American Games All-Star Football Game.

“It was an honor to be selected and play in the game,” Berryhill said. “They treated us tremendously. The hospitality was great. They always had something going on and something for us to do throughout the week.”

Abbott praised the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for the Nation’s contribution to the games, which included \$25,000 and the participation of 40 tribal employees, coordinated by the MCN Department of Public Relations, who carried out and unfurled a giant American flag June 14 during the All-Star Football Game.

“Creek Nation has been one of the biggest supporters for the Jim Thorpe Games,” Abbott said. “Chief Tiger has been with us from the beginning. Last year he threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the softball games. Not only are they the big presenters but they are doing the programs and any promotional items for us to help make these games a success.”

The Jim Thorpe Games were started in 2012 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Native American Sac & Fox member Jim Thorpe’s participation in the 1912 Summer Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden.

Jim Thorpe won gold medals in both decathlon and pentathlon during the 1912 Olympics and set several records during these events.

Emvpunyv 2  
'One who tells  
a story'

*Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Have you recovered from the festival? It was pretty good. The heat wasn’t as bad, there was some breeze, the parade was one of the longer ones they’ve had and the Creek singing was moved indoors into the Mound Building and it’s air conditioned. I saw a very long line for the Swamp People.

Have you heard that folks and developers in Sand Springs want to build a statue of an Indian called “The American,”—a 217-foot bronze monument? It’s supposed to be the Oklahoma equivalent of the Statue of Liberty and designed to do the same thing—draw tourist bucks.

They’re already spending money on studies with an expected \$34 million for the project. Osage sculptor Shan Gray has said that it could possibly start building as soon as the end of summer.

And this, in a state where some guy filed suit over state license plates because he said, it conflicted with his religious beliefs as a Christian. The plates bear a kneeling Indian man shooting an arrow into the sky. It says, “Native America.” Like a big statue, it sounds kinda hollow.

Finally, from the “We-Didn’t-Lose-Them-All” category: The last week of June marks the 127th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, where our plains tribes brethren proved Custer and the 7th Cavalry could not ride through those Indian nations. They showed him he was half right...he got halfway through. Hoka Hey!

Hvtvm Cehecares.



## Yuchi Tennis Player wins Native American tennis championships



**Photo Submission**  
Jerry Bales, North American Indian Tennis Association (NAITA) President gives the first place trophy for the Women's Individual competition to Yawna Allen at the NAITA championships in Tulsa, Okla.

## Allen continues to shine on court

Gerald Wofford / MNN Contributor

TULSA, Okla. – For professional tennis player Yawna Allen, the road to competing on an international level hasn’t been boring.

Places such as Egypt, Nicaragua, Fiji, Puerto Rico, and Jamacia are some of the countries that Allen has competed in since achieving this success.

Two of Allen’s accomplishments include winning the Doubles Title at the 2009 Los Mochis Open in Mexico and the 2011 St. Joseph Tournament in St. Joseph, Mo.

“It was exciting to win first place at those two tournaments,” Allen said.

She explained that doubles tournament events are rather unique, with partners often being selected at the time of the event.

Allen also competed in the North American Indian Tennis Association ( N A I T A ) N a t i o n a l Championships in Tulsa at LaFortune Park on May 25, 26 and 27. She won the first place in the individual and doubles competition with her Mother Casaja.

The Championships were held May 25, 26 and 27 at LaFortune Park.

Carol Green, committee member for the NAITA commented on the event.

“Our President, Jerry Bales did an excellent job on putting it all together. We had lots of competitors. Everyone enjoyed it. We had lots of good camaraderie; just as much as they do at a pow-wow,” said Green.

For Allen, the opportunity to compete in a tournament for Native Americans strengthens the sports identity for tribes all over the country.

“I am honored to play in a sport that isn’t known for having many Native American athletes and I look at it in a way to show that we as Native Americans can compete in any sport if we choose to work hard.”

Allen, who was raised in the Phoenix area, credits her family for playing a role in her success.

“I picked up a racquet when I was three and wanted to play ever since,”

she said. “My grandfather, mom and aunt have always loved tennis. I have to keep the family tradition alive.”

Allen is Yuchi, Quapaw and Cherokee and has been a professional tennis player since 2008.

When she was in junior high school, she began winning local tournaments that lead to one win after another and bigger and bigger tournaments. While attending Integrity High School, she was given physical education credit to travel and compete in national tournaments.

The decision to go professional at a young age was a choice Allen had to make before her senior year in high school was completed.

“I began to get scholarship offers to play tennis from different colleges,” Allen said. “My family had recently moved to northeastern Oklahoma and the University of Arkansas offered me a scholarship so I accepted.”

Then a major setback occurred.

As Allen prepared for her freshman year she injured her knee. This would keep her out of competition for a year.

Through rehabilitation, Allen came back but was now looking at another decision.

“I had been looking to transfer and there are a lot of schools to consider but I chose Oklahoma State.”

Allen was happy with the choice and with her family’s support she made the jump to the pros after her college career was over.

“The decision to turn professional was easy and soon as I graduated I went right on the road, played in different countries. It was a process but their wasn’t a doubt that this is what I wanted to do.”

The life of a professional tennis player can be a short one. Allen, who is now twenty-seven years old, said that many players consider retiring in their early thirties and she knows that her time to hang up the racquet will come.

In March, Allen was inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame.

“Getting into Hall of Fame really hit that point home. I can raise the bar higher, not only for myself but for others that are interested in tennis and inspire them to achieve as well.”

## Eufaula native to make pro boxing debut



**Photo Submission**  
Martin Morales Jr., finishing up an evening of sparring.. will be making his pro debut on July 20 in Oklahoma City.

## Morales Jr. ready for professional career

Darren DeLaune / MNN Reporter

EUFAULA, Okla. — Usually, when a person turns 18, they have a lot going on in their mind. Whether it is finishing high school, starting college the following school year or thinking about joining the workforce.

Martin Morales Jr. is dealing with all of this plus his professional boxing debut this summer.

Martin Morales, Jr. has been boxing since the age of nine and has been in over 100 fights during his amateur career. Now Morales Jr. will be taking the next step when he makes his professional debut July 20 at Remington Park in Oklahoma City.

“It is a great feeling,” he said. “I always wanted to be a professional boxer. It is something that my family and I have been thinking about for about a year. We decided that when I turned 18, I would turn professional. It is a dream come true for me. I worked hard for this and it will happen.”

Boxing has always intrigued Martin Morales Jr. and at the young age, he felt that he wanted to give the pugilistic discipline a try.

“We were always watching the sport,” he said. “When

we moved to Woodward, Oklahoma there was a boxing gym there and my dad decided to take us there and since then we have stuck with it.”

Over his career, Martin Morales Jr. has a fight record of 110 wins and 15 losses.

Martin Morales Jr. recently graduated from Eufaula High School. In a few weeks, he will be heading out to California to train with world-renowned trainer Joel Diaz. Diaz is known for training current World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight champion Timothy Bradley Jr.

“After graduation, I will be heading out to California to train with some of the coaches out there,” Martin Morales Jr. said. “I want to get a few fights under my belt. I will be doing this full-time. During the spring semester, I am going to balance this and school at the same time. I am not sure whether I want to stay at school here or go to school out in California. I can go to school and train in California and I am thinking of leaning towards that.”

He feels that all the sacrifice throughout the years will pay off. After school, Martin Morales Jr., his brothers and parents would get in the car and travel to boxing gyms throughout Oklahoma and Texas for the brothers to spar with the local talent. After a while, everyone knew who the Morales brothers were and coaches did not want to put their fighters in the ring with them.

Their father, trainer and manager, Martin Morales Sr. knows the sacrifices that Morales Jr. and his brothers had to go through.

“Martin and his brothers had to sacrifice a lot,” Martin Morales Sr. said. “Knowing they could not play with their friends because of training, it does get tough. There are no gyms around here (Eufaula) to spar at; so we have to get in the car and go. A lot of the times, it is just me and the boys in our garage training. Still, they all want to fight and they put in the work to make themselves better fighters.”

When his father had to go to work, Martin Morales Jr. would take over training duties for his brothers.

“When my dad is off working in North Dakota,” he said. “I am here training my brothers getting them ready for their fights. It is second nature. I know how our dad wants us to fight. So it comes pretty easy getting my brothers ready for their fights. I tell my brothers everything my father will tell me.”

Martin Morales Sr. and the rest of his family are ready for Martin Morales Jr.’s pro debut.

“One thing I know about his pro debut,” Martin Morales Sr. said. “Fighters are in trouble whoever steps in the ring with him. He is ready. We are all ready for him.”

Martin Morales Jr.’s parents are Martin Morales Sr. and Jennifer Morales and his brothers are Fabian, Aaron and Ivan Morales.

## Mvskoke Media 2013 Summer Youth employees



**Mvskoke Media**/Tyler Roberds

Mvskoke Media has employed several Muscogee (Creek) youth from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Employment and Training's Summer Youth Program. For more information about next year's program contact Nancy Mason with Employment and Training at: 918-732-7776.

(L to r): Audrey Underwood - Photography, Christian Good Voice - Graphic Design, Breanna White - Graphic Design, Evan Tansey - Journalism, Johnnie Morgan - Printing Technician, Chelsie Rich - Photography and Graphic Design.



## Café owner hopes to ‘corner’ Bixby diner market



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Johnson outside his Stepping Stone Cafe in Bixby, Okla. MNN/Gary Fife

### Creek businessman opens new café in downtown Bixby

Gary Fife / Editorial Assistant

BIXBY, Okla. — Calling it his ‘Stepping Stone,’ Muscogee (Creek) citizen George Johnson hopes his new restaurant, which bears the name of this optimistic sentiment, will provide a boost for his family’s path to success.

Johnson comes from near Morris, Okla., and is a lifelong veteran of the restaurant and food service industry. With this background, he decided to apply his experience to opening his own establishment.

He picked a corner spot in downtown Bixby to give the local lunchtime crowd a menu choice featuring home-cooked style meals and dinner customers freshly prepared foods.

“We try to do everything from scratch,” Johnson said. “We’ve got homemade rolls. We make home-battered onion rings. I grind my own meat for the hamburgers. I cut my own chicken fries, beef strips. We try to do everything from scratch and serve good-quality food with friendly service in a clean establishment. With that, I believe it’ll work.”

‘Johnson’s Stepping Stone

Café’ opened, May 1. Since the business is new, it is still trying to make a name for itself and build a clientele.

Apparently, it’s working. Johnson reports their kitchen has been very busy.

“Yesterday, (June 6), we had our busiest day, since we’ve been open. As long as we figure we serve good food, they’ll keep coming back.”

Stepping Stone’s food choices include the usual burgers and sandwiches. There are six different dinner selections, salads, plus two types of bean bowls, chili and a soup of the day.

The restaurant business has a high mortality rate, with many failing in their first few months. Johnson is confident he’s got the right formula for success in his restaurant and instilling the right values in his family.

“It’s probably a good location. As far as the food, the quality works...the prices are real competitive, real low. I’m just trying to pay the bills and teach my children and my grandchildren how to make an honest living.”

The financing for this enterprise has come pretty much from family members’ budgets. Johnson said they had been accumulating the necessary equipment over the years. Their own savings and provided the majority of the capital they needed.

He added, there were more than a few sacrifices along the way, like his wife Tammy giving up a new vehicle to help out. Now, Johnson said, Tammy is driving a car formerly owned by his daughter. According to Johnson, the enterprise took some planning.

“We’ve been buying restaurant equipment over the years. We’ve been putting back, and putting back and putting back. We tried to go in without being in debt. The biggest thing is the people here. As long as we serve good quality food, fast service, friendly service in a clean establishment, they’ll come back.”

“I had the blueprint in 2007. We said we were going to open at the end of 2013. But, we’ve opened up about six months earlier than we were going to because we found this location. We figured we’d go ahead and go with it. So far, it has worked out good.”

Most of the café’s menu is made up of familiar foods that a customer would expect to see. But, Wednesday is one of the days when the Stepping Stone offers a special Native American item. The Indian taco is available all day and Johnson said it brings in the crowds.

“All day Wednesday we have the Indian taco. It’s one of our traditional meals. Everybody seems to love it, so we put it on as regular, all day Wednesday special.”

Customers lined up and were waiting for tables the last time they had the Indian tacos, Johnson recalled. One customer asked for the tacos on a Thursday night and was disappointed to learn that the dish was only available on Wednesdays.

For others considering a venture into the world of owning a restaurant, Johnson has some encouraging words.

“All I can say, if it’s your dream, go for it. We planned this for years. Yes, it’s scary. There are some nights you aren’t going to sleep. But, it’ll all work out, if you keep on the right track. You’ll never know unless you do it.”

Johnson’s Stepping Stone Café is located at 4 North Armstrong St., Bixby, OK.

## EMVPUNYV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

74 percent. The Sooner State is home to more tribes than any other state, and about 9 percent of students are Native American.

How ‘bout that Indian history curriculum addition, Oklahoma State Superintendent Janet Barresi? Haven’t heard much about that.

Tulsa’s Philbrook Museum of Art celebrates the opening of Philbrook Downtown, a satellite space located in the heart of Tulsa’s developing artsy Brady Arts District.

Part of their new space focuses on the Museum’s Native American collection. Philbrook was awarded the high quality, extensive, and well-documented Adkins Collection of Native American and Southwestern Art in 2007—approximately 1,800 objects. This collection presents one of the finest surveys of 20th century Native American art anywhere.

A press release says it’s “a more nuanced and complex installation. The exhibition will highlight the evolution, as well as the reception and intent, of Native American art from 1900 to present. In other words, identifying the motivations and market forces that transformed this work from ‘artifact’ to aesthetic objects of the highest regard.”

Well, when I toured Philbrook as a kid, I never noticed any ‘nuances.’ I guess I was busy looking at all the stuff the rich folks owned.

Have you ever seen one of those TV commercials for loans from a Native American owned company on the Cheyenne River reservation? You know, the one with the sort-of-Native-looking woman? Well, take that one with the proverbial grain of salt.

On June 13, the Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation ordered the payday loan firm owned by a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe to stop doing business in the state.

The decision noted that the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe lacks an ownership or operating interest in the business.

The commission said Martin Webb, the owner of Western Sky Financial, can’t claim immunity from Maryland laws. His business was ordered to stop issuing loans and to stop collection efforts in the state.

“Western Sky and Mr. Webb sought to exploit the concept of tribal immunity to evade state law and to prey on vulnerable borrowers around the country,” Commissioner Mark Kaufman said in a press release. “Maryland has longstanding licensing requirements and interest rate limits for consumer lending that are intended to protect its citizens. ....It is ironic that Western Sky has chosen to avoid lending on the reservation or even in the entire state of South Dakota, yet the company works feverishly to export its products to other states and disregards the protections to which their citizens are entitled.”

That’s an easy one. There’s more money in Maryland than on the reservation.

The Commission said it had “complaints that revealed consumer loans with annualized interest rates ranging from a low of 120 percent to a high of more than 1,800 percent.”

Ouch! Give that one to the federal prosecutors.

Get ready for the hot months of Hiyuce and Hiyo Rakko. I’ll be looking for a shade tree and some iced tea.

### Mvskoke Festival edition set for July 15

Sterling Cospier/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee Nation News (MNN) will feature stories and photos from the 39th Mvskoke Nation Festival themed ‘We Are Mvskoke’ in the July 15 edition.

In addition to photos from the MNN staff, several volunteer photographers coordinated by Mvskoke Media Intern Amanda Rutland, provided extended professional photo coverage.

Readers can expect several stories, which focusing on specific Festival events including rodeo, the theater production ‘The Dawes Comission’ and a vox-pop feature drawn from on-the-spot interviews with Festival attendees.

Keep your eyes on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/MuscogeeNationNews](http://www.facebook.com/MuscogeeNationNews) for more photo albums from the event.

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# OBITUARIES

## TIMOTHY RAY BEAR



MASON, Okla. — Timothy ‘Timmy’ Ray Bear a resident of Mason, Okla., passed way in Tulsa, Okla. May 16, 2013. He was born to Ashley and Mary Leader-Bear on Feb. 28, 1964 in Claremore, Okla. He attended school in Okemah, Okla., and worked as a diesel mechanic and heavy equipment operator all of his life until he was forced to retire due to heath problems.

After he retired, you could always find Timmy helping a family member or friend. Anytime someone had vehicle problems, they would call him. He enjoyed working on vehicles, fixing different things, making a set of turtle or can shakers for his nieces and nephews; no project was ever too big for Uncle Timmy. He also loved his ceremonial ground and was always there to help in any way he could.

He is a member of New Tulsa Ceremonial Ground and the Sweet Potato Clan.

Timothy was preceded in death by: his mother, brother Jon Bear and grandfather Barney Leader.

He is survived by: his father, Ashley Bear of the home, grandmother Liza Leader, brothers Daniel ‘Dude’ Bear and his wife Lisa, Ashley ‘Joe’ Bear and Patrick Bear and his wife Lisa, sister Lisa Hardy and her husband Tony, sister-in-law Jessie Bear, 15 nieces, 11 nephews, seven great-nieces, 12 great-nephews and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Pallbearers were Timmy’s nephews, Channndon, Keith, Robby and Bobby Bear, Rexton Hai-ley, Anthony ‘TeeJay’ Hardy-Bear and Keylinn, Jonathon, William ‘Willie,’ Daniel ‘Jake,’ and Wesley Bear.

Funeral Services were held May 20 at Shurden Chapel. Interment followed at Bear Family Cemetery near Hadenville, Okla. Services were under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

## MAYMIE CHASE



WOODWARD, Okla. — Maymie May Haikey-Chase passed away Feb. 14, 2013 surrounded by her family at her home at the age of 99. She was born May 16, 1913 in Broken Arrow, Okla. to Ellis Riley and Sarah Bugess-Haikey. Maymie spent her early years in Sapulpa, Okla.

When she was 13-years-old, her mother passed away and her father, unable to find work, sent her to the Eufaula Indian Boarding School or as Maymie called it, ‘her prison.’ After several escape attempts, she went to live with her aunt whose house was next to the Haikey Chapel, a church her

grandfather started, which still stands at 101st Street and Memorial in Tulsa, Okla.

Maymie married Burr Nathan Chase in Sapulpa, Okla. and they made their home in Tulsa. The couple moved to Woodward in 1947, where they opened Woodward Glass, which they operated until Burr retired in 1973. The couple was married for 47 years. Maymie’s main focus was her family and she devoted her life to them.

Maymie volunteered wherever she was needed and did so for over 30 years with the Woodward County Election Board. She was a member of the Eastern Star for over 50 years and an OHC member for 57 years. She belonged to several card playing clubs, Queen Esther Order of the Eastern Star, Woodwardettes, Friends of the Star and the Cherrio’s Club.

She was a member of the First Christian Church.

Maymie was preceded in death by: parents Ellis and Sarah Haikey, husband Burr N. Chase, daughter Sarah Lou Chase, brother, Eugene Haikey, sister Mary Jane Kloth, grandson Jason Dean Ogden, great-grandson Chase Allen Jamison and a very special sister-in-law, Hope Owen.

She is survived by: daughters Marian Stout and her husband Herb, Pat Crooks, Kathryn Estle and her husband Bud, Carolyn Chase, Joyce Hunter and her husband Jim, son George Chase and his wife Vicky, brothers Foster Haikey, Ellis Haikey Jr., sister Norma Jo Cobb, grandchildren Gena Swofford and her husband John, Yolanda Hunter, Colleen, Jimmy and Billy Crooks, Diana Dophied and her husband Jerry, Dana McQueen and her husband Mac, Michael Jamison and his wife Stacey, Troy Jamison and his wife Yoshi, Chad Jamison and his wife Ashley, Ronda Guerrero and her husband Izzy, Londa west and her husband Dana, great-grandchildren Grant and Macy Swofford, Will and Derrick Hunter, Logan, Laura, Tyler and Elizabeth Crooks, Triena Marshall, Tracey Renfrow, Christopher Dophied, Katy and Victor McQueen, Kiera, Sydney, Reagan, Hannah and Keine Jamison, Mariah and Ryan Guerrero and Brooke and Kendall West, great-great-grandchildren Taylor, Hunter and Mackenzie Garrigus and Michael and Anthony Renfrow as well as numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank our ‘special care-giver,’ Donna Lewis and give a special thank you to Kerrie Stubbs with Faith Hospice.

Funeral Services were held Feb. 18 at the First Christian Church with the Reverend Jeremy Skaggs officiating. Internment followed at Elmwood Cemetery with the Billings Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

## MARY EUGENIA DOVER



MCALESTER, Okla. — Mary Eugenia Dover was born Oct. 23, 1920, the first child of Mary Eliza Burton and Eugene Roswell Redman in Mellette, Okla. She is the granddaughter of Eliza Victoria Smith and Robert David Burton of Hinds, Miss., who founded the

first general store in Checotah, Okla. in 1888. She is the great-granddaughter of Lucinda Yargee and John G. Smith whose parents, Captain Checartah Yargee (Yarger) and Sam Smith were leaders of the Creek Indian Removal from Alabama in 1836. She was especially proud of her Indian heritage.

Eugenia graduated from Eufaula High School in 1938 and went on to Wilburton Junior College and Southeastern State Teacher’s College in Durant, Okla. where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and history. She taught primary class from 1941-1953 at West Liberty, East Liberty as well as the 62 and Mellette School Districts.

Eugenia taught Sunday school at Burns Chapel Church of God in Mellette for several years. She dearly loved the Lord Jesus Christ and would read the Bible to anyone. She enjoyed gardening and most of all, was devoted to her family whom she taught at home.

Eugenia was married to Virgil Lloyd Dover Sr. of Raiford, Okla. in McAlister, Okla. May 24, 1941, by the justice of the peace. She passed away April 28, 2013 at the age of 92 at McAlester Regional Hospital from complications due to diabetes.

She was preceded in death by: husband Virgil Lloyd Sr. who passed Nov. 16, 1986, son Larry Dover who passed in 1994, brothers William, Robert and infant Sonny Boy Redman and sisters Clara Adams, Virginia Redman and Ruth Stratton.

She is survived by: her children, Mary Tolbert, Linda Dover, Virgil Jr. and his wife Jeanette Dover, Marion and his wife Dianne Dover, William Dover, Bobby Dover Sr., brother Eugene Redman II, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were Billy, Bobby and Victor Gray, Frank Dover, Toney Rippy and Shane Harjo. A funeral service was held May 2 at the Kelley Memorial Chapel in Eufaula, Okla. with Rev. G.C. Gray officiating. Burial followed at the Mellette Cemetery under the direction of Hunn, Black and Merritt Funeral Homa and Cremator in Eufaula, Okla. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.hbmfuneralhome.com](http://www.hbmfuneralhome.com).

## CAROL ANN MORRIS



TULSA, Okla. — Carol Ann Asbury-Morris of Tulsa passed away April 25, 2013 in Corpus Christi, Texas, at the age of 72. She was born July 2, 1940 the last of five siblings at her parents Joe Asbury and Lillie Lewis’ home near Bryant, Okla.

Carol attended school in Weletka, Okla. where she, among other successes was an all-state basketball star. After graduating high school, she attended Draughn Business School in Oklahoma City where she learned administrative skills like shorthand. Soon afterwards she met and married Fredrick N. Morris Jr., whom with she had one son, Artussee Dean Morris. Moving to Rockport, Texas in 1978, she worked as a park ranger at Goose Island State Park.

After graduating from Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas with an Associate Degree in 1984, she moved back home and settled in Tulsa where she started working for the City of Tulsa Code Enforcement Division where she ultimately retired.

Throughout her life, she had a keen interest in helping others. While in Rockport, she volunteered for the Aransas County EMS and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. After moving back home, she volunteered and served in numerous organizations, such as secretary for nine years for the City of Tulsa Retiree Association, nine years as treasurer for the Tulsa Indian Community Foundation, 18 years holding various positions including Board Member and chairman (twice) for the Tulsa Creek Indian Community. She was recently recognized for her 20-year commitment to the Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission. Not to mention her commitment to her community by serving on the Tulsa Indian Coalition Against Racism, Tulsa Good Shepard Association, Red Cross and State of Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association. She once ran for tribal representative for the Tulsa District, ultimately losing by five votes. For her commitment to native peoples, she was recognized as an Oklahoma Indian Elder of the Year.

Besides her commitment to others, she enjoyed making jewelry, sewing, fishing, camping and traveling. She traveled from the eastern seaboard including New York City to Seattle and to British Columbia and Mexico City. In observance of her tribal traditions, she kept camp as her mother did at Arbeka Ceremonial Grounds.

She is preceded in death by: her parents, brothers William “Buster” Barnett, Wilbur Starr, John Joe Asbury and Wesley Asbury, son Artussee Dean Morris, granddaughter Taneesa Ann Morris, several nieces and nephews and a host of cousins.

Services were held at Hickory Ground Church #2, May 2 and she was buried at the Lewis Family Cemetery.

## NANCY MAE NIBS



MIDWEST CITY, Okla. — Nancy Mae Marshall Nibs passed away April 28, 2013 at Midwest City regional Hospital in Midwest City, Okla. She was born July 7, 1938 to the late Rev. Jacob (Jake) Marshall and Nancy Tiger Marshall, in Okemah, Okla. She was and enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Nancy grew up and attended schools in the Wetumka and Cromwell, Okla. areas. She also attended grade school at Carter Seminary Indian Boarding School. Her junior high school years were spent at Eufaula Boarding School and her high school years were spent at Chilocco Indian School.

Nancy accepted Jesus as her savior at a young age. She was a charter member of the Glorieta Baptist Church. She was athletic and enjoyed playing basketball, softball and bowling. She was a star basketball player at Eufaula and played on the intramural championship team at Chilocco. Her other favorite sport was fast pitch softball. She played first base. She eagerly looked forward to playing in the Indian tournaments all across Oklahoma and the annual state tournament at

Wheeler Park in Oklahoma City. She was on a bowling league team and enjoyed all the friendships she made there too. She loved the excitement and competitiveness of these sports. Her favorite movie was, ‘A League of Their Own.’ She said it reminded her of her softball days. She like the National Football League Team the Dallas Cowboys and coach Tom Landry.

Nancy retired from many years of working in the federal service as a human resource specialist. Most of her career with the federal government was with the Indian Health Service in Oklahoma City and Aberdeen, S.D. She also worked for the Veterans Administration in Austin, Texas and Oklahoma City. She was employed with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes at Concho, Okla.

She was a board member of the Native American Center (now the United Urban Indian Center) until her employment took her to South Dakota. She remained a consultant for the board. She was recently recommended for employment at the Delaware Nation in Oklahoma City and was to start work April 29. God had a bigger and better plan for Nancy.

God called her to her heavenly home on April 28, where she is enjoying life to the fullest being the presence of her Lord and savior Jesus Christ and reunited with family, friends and other believers. Praise God

Nancy loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There were many cookouts, birthday parties and special times during the holidays. Everyone loved her fry bread.

Nancy is survived by: her children, Marsha Lena, Timothy E. Nibs Jr. (Chebon), Anthony Nibs (Diddle), Sandra Nibs, sisters Augustine Harjo, Pauline Levi, Rose Marshall and Diane Factor, Semary Ratteree, brother Famous Marshall Sr., aunt Christine Harjo, grandchildren Lesley, Brandon and Rullison ‘Jake’ Lena, Anthony Nibs Jr., Ronnie and Elliot Roy, Ellington and Easton Nibs and great-grandchildren Kayla Rayleen, Jayden, Alex, Addisyn, Tayln, Bryndon, Roman, LaNiah, Massisah and Sade’.

She was preceded in death by: her parents and her second mother Nancy Chupco Marshall, friend and ex-husband Timothy Nibs Sr., nieces Sherry Stephenson Hill, Heavenlee Dauhomah, sisters Wanda Wesley and Alice Roberts and brother Geronimo Harjo.

Pallbearers are Timothy ‘Chebon’ Nibs Jr., Anthony ‘Diddle’ Nibs, Brandon Lena, Famous Marshall, Ronald Joseph Roy and Rullison ‘Jake’ Lena.

Honorary Pallbearers are Elliot Roy, Ellington, Easton and Anthony Nibs Jr. and Jayden and Alex Perdomo-Lena.

The family would like to say thank you, Mvto, and Aho to everyone who has said prayers, given hugs, love and support to us in this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Glorieta Baptist Church in Oklahoma City in the name of Nancy Nibs.

## ISAIAH ALAN OTT



TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — Isaiah Ott died June 6, 2013 at 16 years of age. Isaiah was born in Tahlequah August 25, 1996. He enjoyed sports, especially basketball, mu-



# OBITUARIES

sis and spending time with family, friends and the love of his life, his daughter Teagan.

Isaiah was preceded in death by: grandmothers Tsianina Wesley, Norma Jean Bible and Pauline Marshall and grandfather Lee Bass Jr.

He is survived by: mother Regina of the home, father Elwood, daughter Teagan, brother Jordan Ott, grandparents Richard Wesley, Daniel Ott and Kipp Sands, great-grandparents Watie and Margie Wacoche, uncle Dominic James, aunts Anissa, Paula, Johnnie and Rainey Wesley, Tamara and Marta Ott and a host of other cousins, relatives and friends.

A wake service was held June 9 and a funeral service June 10, both at the Grave Creek Indian Baptist Church in Hitchita, Okla., with Revs. Norman Daniels and Mitchell Taylor officiating. Interment followed at the Grave Creek Cemetery.

Casket bearers are Jared Barnett, Judah Closterman, Kamron Slusser, D.J. Williams, Marcus Kitchkommie, Sam Tuckwin and Jordan Ott.

Honorary casket bearers are Derick Denny, Ryan Taryole, Laren Richards, J.R. Roman Nose, Solomon Horsechief and Dominic James.

## BOWMAN PARKERSON



HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — Bowman Parkerson, died May 20, 2013 in Hot Sprinks, Ark., at the age of 89. Parkerson was born Jan. 31, 1924 on the family farm. He attended Coweta Grade School and Chilocco Indian School and later served in the U.S. Army. He met and married Juanita Talley while they were both employed at Douglas Aircraft in Tulsa, Okla. They later moved to Hot Springs, Ark. Where they owned a carpet business until Bowman retired. He was a proud member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Bowman is survived by: his wife Juanita, their daughter Sandra Kay Parkerson, sisters Sue Millis and Jerome Reins, nephew Benny Parkerson, nieces Janie Fellers and Bobbie McCoy and several out-of-state nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by: parents Moss and Janie Parkerson, sons Charlie and Casey Parkerson and sisters Carrie Long Parkerson and Laura Parkerson.

No services are planned. Friends may send condolences to the family online at [www.arkansasfuneralcare.com](http://www.arkansasfuneralcare.com).

## EUGENE THOMAS SR.



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Eugene Thomas Sr., a resident of Okmulgee, passed away May 26, 2013 at

the age of 85. He was born Dec. 15, 1927 to Chenosky and Sis-sie Mitchell-Thomas in Okemah, Okla. Rev. Roley Haynes baptized him May 6, 1940 at the High Spring Indian Baptist Church.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1950 and was honorably discharged in 1952. He served as a corporal in the 180th Infantry Battalion, 45th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army during the Korean War. His awards for military service include: the Combat Infantry Badge, Army Occupation Medal (Japan), Korean Service Medal with a Bronze Campaign Star, United Nations Service Medal and and Good Conduct Medal.

He married Mattie Jean Lasley-Thomas on April 13, 1954. They were married for 52 years and had five children: Elizabeth Eugene ‘Bon’ Jr., Cindy, John Al and Gilbert.

He was preceded in death by: parents Chenosky and Sis-sie Mitchell, wife Mattie Lasley-Thomas who passed in September 2006, daughter Elizabeth Thomas, son John Al Thomas, grandson John, one brother, sister and two nephews.

He is survived by: son Eugene ‘Bon’ Thomas Jr., daughter Cindy Jean Thomas-Roberson and her husband Donald, son Gilbert Thomas, 13 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, 10 great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 30 at the Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church with Mitchell Taylor officiating. Burial followed the service at the Nuyaka Indian Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Military honors were conducted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard.

Pallbearers were Norman Heneha, Ernest Heneha, J.D. Harley, Robert Solomon, Billy McDowell and Billy Ray Harley.

Honorary pallbearers were William Gouge, Dustin Cloud and Sam ‘Bonney’ Deere.

Friends may send their condolences to [www.shurdenjackson.com](http://www.shurdenjackson.com).

## JOAN THOMAS



GLENPOOL, Okla. — Joan Thomas, 74, of Glenpool passed away March 21, 2013 in Tulsa, Okla. She was born October 15, 1938 in Tulsa to Josie and Rachel Harry-Tiger.

Joan graduated from high school at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kan. She worked in the food vending business and was also a caregiver in the home health industry.

She was the matriarch of her family and had a strong will and determined soul, cared for others and gave unconditionally. Joan enjoyed spending time with her family, going sightseeing, listening to music, watching movies and attending church services. She was a loving mother, sister and friend and will be missed.

Joan was an attendee of the Eufaula Boarding School at was recognized for her eighth-grade sewing project in 1952. This can be viewed at the Oklahoma Historical Society Museum in Okla-

homa City.

She is survived by: daughters, Kimberly Blankenship and her husband David and Linda Thomas, son Russell Thomas, brothers, Artman Tiger, Victor Gutierrez and his wife Ellen and Clark Gutierrez, grandchildren, Bryson, Breanna, Jeremiah, Lakya, Shiya and Liam.

She was preceded in death by: both her parents, son, Melvin Thomas, former husband and friend, James Thomas and sister, Julia Bigpond.

Visitation and a wake were held March 24 and her funeral was held March 25, all took place at Hutchins-Maples Funeral Home. Internment followed in Magnolia Memorial Gardens.

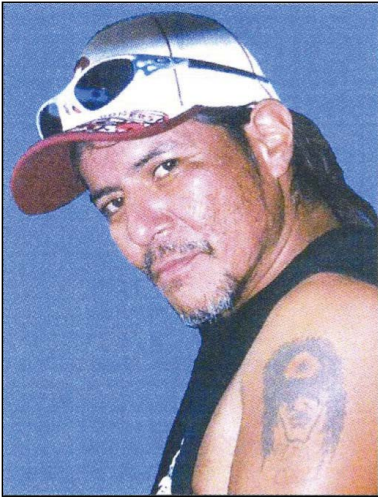
The family would like to thank Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and Second Chief Roger Barnett for showing kindness and sympathy in their time of need.

“This was a very loving gesture towards my mother, Joan Tiger-Thomas and our family. Thank you for caring so much,” said Linda Thomas-McDaniel.

The family would like to thank the ladies at the Bristow Community Center that made the family and their friends feel welcome:

Rachel Barnett, Tisha and Bis-cuit Anderson, Kay Evans, Ramona Davis, Shorty and Lydia Taryole, Lillian Bird, Mary Bailey, Sherry Johnson and Hannah Allen.

## GREGORY WAMEGO



MESA, Ariz. — Gregory ‘Micco’ Wamego passed away April 20, 2012 in Mesa, Ariz., at the age of 44. He was born April 22, 1969 at Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Throughout his life, Micco had many odd jobs such as, landscaping, bricklaying and being a dental assistant. His favorite job was being a Harley Davison mechanic. However, as a bricklayer, Micco took pride in being part of the crew that helped construct Salt River Fields, spring training home of the Arizona Diamondbacks at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz., which is located on the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community.

On April 18, when the doctor told him to get his affairs in order, Micco requested that Pastor Dr. Fred be called. With the help of Dr. Fred, Micco made his profession of faith, understanding that he needed to make things right. When Dr. Fred said that he would be praying and helping Micco’s son Freeman to grow up to love the Lord, Micco replied, ‘He already does.’ Freeman had already been sharing his love for the Lord with his dad.

Micco graduated from Crown-point High School in Crown-point, N.M., in 1987 and appeared in ‘Who’s Who of American High School Seniors. He completed training at Motorcycle Mechanics Institute in Phoenix, Ariz., and became a certified Harley Davidson mechanic. He also attended school in San Diego, Calif., and Muskogee and Shawnee, Okla.

Micco was preceded in death by: maternal grandmother Mary Barnett, maternal great-grandparents Toney and Rhonda-Cato

Barnett, paternal grandparents Thomas and Angeline-Pratt and adopted grandparents Walter and Lucy Phillips.

He is survived by: mother, Ella Ruth Barnett, father Perry John Wamego, son Freeman Dominic Lucvce and his mother Sahara, sisters Mary and her husband Rick and Sherrill and her husband Eric, brother Murphy and his wife Kathryn, nieces and nephews Stefan, Casey, Crystal, Tessa, Chelsea, Christian, Richard, Jessyca, Jessie, Deagan, Tyree, Tanyon, Khien and Nora and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends including his childhood best friend, R.B. Archibald.

Services were held May 8 at All Nations Church in Phoenix, Ariz., and interment followed at Greenwood Memorial Lawn Cemetery in Phoenix, Ariz.

The family has written the following thank you note:

During the passing of our beloved Gregory ‘Micco’ Wamego, there were many acts of kindness, love, support and mainly prayers. With grateful hearts, we would like to have this opportunity to say thank you to: All Nations Baptist Church, Longmore Road Baptist Church, Muscogee (Creek) Indian Community and Methodist Church for preparing the dinner for our family, Gary Long for providing a Harley Davidson motorcycle escort to the cemetery, many relatives and friends all of Phoenix, Ariz., the Oklahoma relatives and friends who traveled the distance to be with us, Virginia and Victoria at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Social Services and Rev. Bill Barnett of Indian Nations Baptist Church in Seminole, Okla., for officiating at the wake and funeral service.

## LEONA ZINK

OKLAHOMA CITY — Leona Zink was born April 1, 1940 in Okemah, Okla. to Cheparney Harjo and Lillie Deere-Harjo. She passed away May 19, 2013 in Oklahoma City at the age of 73.

Leona was a resident of the Okemah area most of her life. She graduated from Bearden High School in 1958 and later from Baylor Nursing School. She went on to work for Indian Health Services, numerous hospitals, medical care facilities and worked in private care as well. She married Roger William Zink Dec. 7, 1963 in Juarez, Mexico. She and her family lived in may places, following Roger’s career in the U.S. Air Force.

Leona was a lifetime member of the Thlopthlocco United Methodist Church. She was the current U.M.W. Local president and past district spiritual life resources chairperson and was also a Pastor Parish Relations committee chairman. Throughout her guidance, love and teaching, she played a vital role in the development of her nephews and son-in-law as pastors and lay speakers. She enjoyed quilting, crafting, reading and studying the Bible and serving others. Leona will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by: husband Roger William Zink who passed in 1989, her parents, brothers Ben Harjo, Allen Yargee and Jimmie Johnson and sister Ida McGeeley.

She is survived by: son Glenn Zink and his wife Lisa, daughter Daphne Back and her husband Donald, sister Bessie Fixico, sister-in-law Jamie Yargee, grandchildren Sara Baker and her husband David, Grace Hounsell and her husband Garid, Dakota Crase and his wife Brittany, Jonah, Jacob and Noah Baker and Nathaniel Zink, great-grandchildren Jorjie Blu Henley, Justin Jack Crase and Reuben Booth Hounsell. She is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and many friends.

Funeral services were held May 23 at the Thlopthlocco United Methodist Church near Okemah. Interment followed at the Thlo-

pthlocco Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jonah and Jacob Baker, Johnnie and Daniel Jonson, Lewis McGeeley, Randall Hinkle and Willie and Joshua Yargee.

Honorary pallbearers will be Noah Baker, Nathaniel Zink, United Methodist Women and a host of other relatives and friends.

Services will be under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home in Okemah with Rev. David Long Jr., Rev. Donald Baker and Chaplain Sam Garner officiating.

Online condolences may be made at [www.parksbrothersfuneralhome.com](http://www.parksbrothersfuneralhome.com).

# 2013 election information

**Media Release**  
*MCN Election Board*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Election Board has released information for the upcoming 2013 elections.

MCN National Council Representatives are elected every four years. Seats A & B are staggered. Seat B in all eight districts are up for election this year 2013.

A candidate information fair will be held July 10 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at a location yet to be determined. This session is for citizens and present Council members intending to file as candidates for MCN National Council seat B.

The following is a list of key dates and information regarding the election:

Candidate filing will be from July 15-17 at 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at the tribal confrence room on the tribal complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

The primary election will be Sept. 21 and the General Election will be Nov. 2. and a \$200 filing fee must be provided through money order or cashier check. Personal checks will not be accepted.

### Qualifications:

Must be one-quarter or more Muscogee (Creek)

Must be 18-years-old or older

Must be an enrolled tribal citizen

Must have resided in the tribal jurisdiction for one full calander year and provide proof of said residency

Must be a tribal registered voter six months prior to filing as a candidate

No felony within the last 10 years, (a background check will be conducted)

### When filing as a candidate you will need the following:

Tribal enrollment card

Voter’s card

Filing Fee in money order or cashier check form

Documentation verifying one years residency.

### Documentation must be any three of the items listed below:

Driver’s License

Income tax return for preceding year

Copy of Homestead Exemption

Copy of House Deed or statement from MCN Housing Authority containing dates of residency

If renting: a notarized statement from the landlord containing dates of residency

Utility Bill in Candidate’s name

The address must be the same on all documents and must contain the name of the candidate.



# COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL EVENTS 2013

# Lighthouse Explorers lead the way

## Program grooms tribal youth with law enforcement career aspirations

**MCN Lighthouse Police Department**

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Law Enforcement Career Exploring is a national program affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America that provides educational training for young men and ladies between the ages of 14 and 21. The Explorer program immerses participants in the field of law enforcement through hands on training, community service and experience. The primary goals of the program are to assist young adults who wish to enter into a law enforcement career and to challenge them to become responsible citizens of their communities.

Nationally, over 30,000 explorers and 8,000 adult vol-



The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department Explorer Program Color Guard.

unteers participate with federal, state and county agencies throughout the United States. The majority of the programs are managed by police and sheriffs' departments and supported by the National Sheriffs' Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
(MCN) Lighthorse Explorer  
Post 106 is proud to be one of  
the few Tribal Police Explor-

set to Lighthouse officers when interacting with Muscogee citizens.

Advisors from the Lighthorse Police Department and the College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) conduct real world lessons ranging from human relations to traffic stops to crime scene investigation and even self-defense tactics. While the Explorer program focuses on preparing young adults for a career in law enforcement, it also serves to promote the Mvskoke values of community service, leadership and responsibility. Additionally, Post 106 strives to develop a healthy environment for the Explorers, both physically and mentally by engaging them in fitness challenges, ropes courses, social activities and presentations from MCN Behavioral Health.

MCN Lighthouse Explorers are armed with the knowledge of tribal laws and customs and

are outfitted with Lighthorse uniforms. Explorers wear the badges and insignia that identifies them as being associated with the MCN Lighthorse Police Department and are held to the same standards as the actual Lighthorse officers they train with. Those who have demonstrated leadership are given ranks in line with law enforcement personnel and are given added responsibilities of leading their peers.

Currently, Lighthorse Explorer Post 106 has 30 enrolled Explorers with the majority being Muscogee (Creek) citizens residing throughout the MCN boundaries including Okemah, Wetumka, Muskogee and Glenpool, Okla. Regular meetings are held twice a month on Sundays at 3 p.m. at the Lighthorse Police Station with activities generally scheduled on Saturdays. Furthermore, Lighthorse Explorers serve as a Color Guard presenting the United States, Oklahoma and MCN flags at various parades and conferences.

Muscogee (Creek) culture and history presentation, MCN Behavioral Health presentation, teamwork and communication field exercise, K-9 handler demonstration, crime scene investigation and self defense tactics training

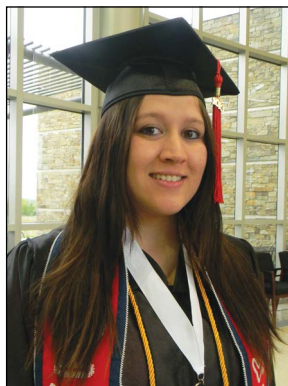
For more information contact  
Daniel Wind III – Lighthorse  
Explorer Post 106 Chairman at:  
dwind@muscogeenation-nsn.  
gov or 918-732-7800.

## CONGRATULATIONS 2013 GRADUATES

# Hannah Murphy

College of the Muscogee Nation  
Tribal Services

Hannah is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa sorority, is on the Dean's Honor Roll, received the Dean' Award and spoke at the Northeastern State University Mvskoke Language Symposium with the College of the Muscogee Nation.



She is a member of the Bear Clan, First Baptist Church in Kellyville, Okla., and her parents are Harold and Nancy Murphy.

# Robert Selumber

Shawnee High School

Robert plans to attend Bacone College on a wrestling scholarship.

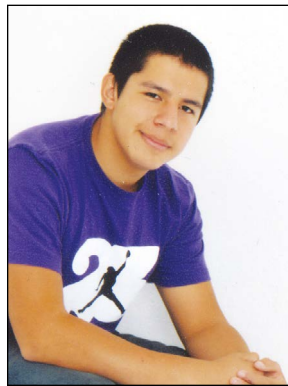
He is a member of the Tiger Clan and his parents are Serena Selumber and Venacio Torres.



# Devery Deere-Turney

# Eufaula High School

While in school, Devery has participated in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl competition where he helped the Eufaula team excel. He has enjoyed playing softball and stickball during get togethers at the Eufaula Dorm and other functions.



He is a member of the Bear Clan, Alabama Quasarte Tribal Town Nuyaka and Alabama Ceremonial Grounds and the Ryal community. His parents are Lesah Deere-Yargee and Leroy Turney.

# Jordan Bacahi Young

U.S. Marine Corps Recruitment  
Depot

Jordan graduated from the U.S. Marine Corps Recruitment Depot (MCRD) in San Diego, Calif., May 24. He is a member of the Tuskie-Harjo Band. His grandmother, Brenda Cummings of Del City, Okla., and his mother, Jennifer Noon of Okemah, Okla., attended the MCRD Family Day May 23 and graduation ceremony May 24. He returned briefly to Oklahoma for a 10-day leave and has returned to Camp Pendleton in San Diego, Calif., where he will continue his training in the Marine Corps.



He is the grandson of Shirley Harrison of Wewoka, Okla., and Edward L. Harjo of Okemah, Okla.

JUN/18/2013/TUE 02:21 PM English & Gaither PC FAX No. 918 652 4487 P. 002/003

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DIVISION DISTRICT COURT  
FILED

2013 JUN 12 P 3:19

In the Matter of the Guardianship )  
of A.T.T., )  
born 11/10/95, a minor child. )

Case No.: GD-13-10

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: EDDY TARPALECHEE

You are hereby notified that EDWARD TARPALECHEE has filed in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, a petition praying that Letters of Guardianship be issued to her upon the person and estate of A.T.T., a minor child.

And that the 9th day of August, 2013, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, has been appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition, when and where any persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they can, why such appointment should not be made.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2013.

Court Clerk  
By: Betsy Rack Deputy

Luke Gaither, OBA #17490, MCN #148  
Attorney for Petitioner

JUN/18/2013/TUE 02:21 PM English & Gaither PC FAX No. 918 652 4487 P. 003/003

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Guardianship  
of A.T.T.,  
born 11/10/95, a minor child.

DISTRICT COURT  
Case No. CD-13-10  
JUN 12 P 3:20

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: APRIL JARDOT

You are hereby notified that EDWARD TARPALACHEE has filed in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, a petition praying that Letters of Guardianship be issued to her upon the person and estate of A.T.T., a minor child.

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Court Clerk  
By: Becky Peck  
Deputy

Luke Gaither, OBA #17490  
Attorney for Petitioner

JUN/18/2013/TUE 02:21 PM English & Gaither PC FAX No. 918 652 4487 P. 001/003

**GAITHER LAW OFFICE**

◆ ◆ ◆

P.O. Box 1090  
405 W. Trudgeon  
Henryetta, OK 74437

LUKE GAITHER  
ATTORNEY AT LAW, PLLC

(918)652-4402 Telephone  
(918)652-4487 Fax

June 18, 2013


Muscogee (Creek) Nation News  
VIA FAX: (918)758-0824

RE: Guardianship of Anthony Tyler Tarpalechee  
Court Case No. GD 2013-10

Please publish the enclosed Notices by Publication one (1) time, with publications as follows:

July 1, 2013

Sincerely,



LUKE GAITHER

LG/jj  
Enclosure



# INSIDE THE MNN:

## 39TH MUSKOGEE NATION FESTIVAL PHOTOS, STORIES & RESULTS

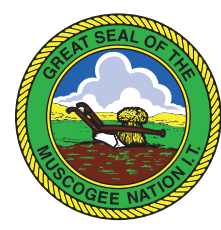


# MUSKOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSKOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MUSKOGEE MEDIA

# MCN Celebrates 39th Mvskoke Nation Festival

**JULY 15, 2013**  
**VOL. 43, ISSUE 14**  
**"HIYUCE"**  
**LITTLE HARVEST**



### Festival follows theme, 'We Are Mvskoke'

**Sterling Cospel**/MNN Editor  
**Evan Tansey**/Summer Youth

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muskogee (Creek) Nation held the 39th annual Mvskoke Nation Festival June 20-23 themed 'We Are Mvskoke.'

"That theme really set the precedent for everybody coming together and joining the festival," said MCN Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe. "With that statement, there was really no better way to say it's for the tribe."

Muskogee (Creek) citizen Sandi Golden shared a similar view when asked about what the Festival meant to her.

"It is a celebration time for our Creek citizens," she said. "My favorite part about the Festival is when everyone is coming in to see what is going on, getting to see a lot of old friends, people we played ball with, our church people; everyone is out here."

This year's Festival featured cultural events such as the cornstalk shoot, the Mvskoke language theater production 'The Dawes Commission,' Council House Art Market, traditional skill demonstrations, Mvskoke



Participants of the stompdance June 20 at the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla., which was part of the 39th Mvskoke Nation Festival.

hymn and gospel singing and a stompdance, which is typically held as part of the opening ceremony.

Several Muskogee (Creek) artists commented on their success at Council House Art Market.

"I did better here than I did at Red Earth," said Muskogee (Creek) potter Scott Roberts.

Muskogee (Creek) artist Dana

Tiger shared a similar sentiment.

"It's not everyday I sell a \$2000 painting on the spot," she said.

Tiger enjoyed another aspect of the market even more.

"It is even better to visit with all the people at the market at our Council House," she said.

Muskogee (Creek) flute player William Harjo enjoyed the atmosphere of the market.

"It sure is a good feeling to be

here at the art market and Festival," he said. "It is really important that we keep lively activity here at our Council House."

Other festival favorites included sport tournaments, a carnival, children's fun fair and the All Indian Rodeo.

"I really enjoy coming to see my Creek friends," said Tara

**FESTIVAL - 2**

## Interior secretary underscores commitment to tribes

### New White House Council on Native American Affairs announced

**Gary Fife**  
MNN Editorial Assistant

RENO, Nev. — Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior Sally Jewell called the nation's trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives a "moral imperative and sacred duty."

While speaking to the 2013 National Congress of American Indians mid-year conference in Reno June 27, Jewell highlighted a new executive order issued by President Barack Obama June 26, establishing the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

According to Jewell, the new council will "institutionalize the White House Tribal Nations Conferences as an annual event."



A new executive order issued by President Barack Obama June 26, established the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

In her press conference, Jewell emphasized the support for the idea from the president.

"President Obama has made one of his top priorities to support Indian Country and he's worked to promote prosperous and resilient tribal natures in the time he's been in office."

The council, which Jewell will chair, will improve inter-

agency coordination, efficiency and will expand efforts to leverage federal programs and resources available to tribal communities. It will include the heads of more than 20 federal departments and agencies charged with addressing American Indian issues.

She said establishment of the council will "ensure that the federal family is having

more regular and meaningful engagement throughout the year and will help break down the silos that exist in government."

According to an Interior department press release, the council will have five priorities: promote sustainable economic development, support greater access to and control over healthcare, improve the effectiveness and efficiency of tribal justice systems, expand and improve educational opportunities for Native American youth and protect and support the sustainable management of Native lands, environments and natural resources.

Jewell said she expects to host the first White House council meeting some time this summer, although she gave no specific date.

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn also attended NCAI's conference and

**AFFAIRS - 3**

### Supreme court justice appointed during Council Regular Session

**Gary Fife**  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — During a regular session of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation National Council June 29, the Council approved Tribal Resolution 13-080 sponsored by Reps. David Hill and Robert Hufft 16-0, appointing Leah Harjo Ware to the MCN Supreme Court.

The Council also addressed the following legislation:

- NCR 13-002 Requiring latest financial statements for each chartered community funding request for capital operations money. Rep. Sam Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-073 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a waste disposal compliance services agreement on behalf of the MCN Department of Health with Stericycle, Inc. for waste disposal services at Department of Health facilities. Rep. Pearl Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-074 Authorizing the principal chief to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Beggs Public Schools for the funding and operation of after school and summer programs. Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-075 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with the Indian Health Service on behalf of the United States of America with Creek County Water District 13 and Okmulgee County Water District 6. Rep. Eddie LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-076 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with the IHS on behalf of the United States of America. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-077 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a consulting agreement with Cross Timbers Consulting LLC. for technical assistance related to the Nation's tribal

**COUNCIL - 3**





# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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## Tribal journalism progress, challenges discussed on Mvskoke Radio (Part 1)

### Native American journalists examine the state of their craft

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla — It's a question debated for years among Native American journalists: Is there freedom of the press when tribal governments own the press?

The issue was discussed on Mvskoke Radio June 19 with two independent Native journalists. Paul DeMain, longtime publisher and newscaster at News From Indian Country and Lisa Snell, publisher of the Native American Times. The two gave their independent opinions of the issue during a roundtable discussion with the radio program hosts Gerald Wofford and Gary Fife.

In defining the topic, Snell noted the differences in covering Indian country issues versus mainstream journalism.

"In mainstream, you're dealing with government entities; you're dealing with state, with federal governments; you're dealing with city government. But in Indian country, where I'm at, you're trying to cover the country and look at what's happening in that broad of a sense. That's 560 nations really. There's no way I can cover everyone, but I try to focus here in Oklahoma. But each tribal government is set up differently. Each one has a different hierarchy of command that you have to go through. I've learned with each one, there's more than one gatekeeper."

DeMain defined the topic in a slightly different fashion. For him, it was a matter of a right inherent in traditional native governmental structure.

"I've tried to adjust my perception of that over the years into kind of a jive with what I see as Indian Country's guarantee of its Bill of Rights. It derives itself out of the old concept of the general council. The general council brought everyone together so that they could listen and discuss things unimpeded by time constraints and Roberts Rules (of Order). You heard from the most intellectualized individual in your community down to the person who isn't bothered by anything in particu-

lar and might just want to get up and rant."

"In general council, there seems to be a respect for hearing things and seeing things unimpeded by secrecy, executive sessions, political concerns. There is the forum where person used to stand up and debate things and even sometimes, the body would come to the conclusion that the best thing was not to vote 51 to 49 for something, but to simply set aside the debate until some future generation or time period when people could form that consensus. So consensus is an element of freedom of speech. General council and the right for everyone to be heard."

"The idea that 'there are no secrets,' that the citizens of the nation own the political process, they own the treasury, they own the politicians—the politicians are supposed to be working for them. It's the citizens whose property is being debated and therefore transparency and clarity and all those things are very important from the top down. That 'dirty laundry' and budget issues and secret votes only do damage to the process of having an open government."

Snell added that many tribal governments create a fear of retaliation.

"One thing that I've encountered often is whenever we're trying to investigate any issue or tip or, as Paul was saying, 'dirty laundry,' often the case in tribal governments people are afraid of speaking out. They're afraid of going on record because they may lose their job. They may be 'reorganized' in an unpleasant fashion, or they may have a spouse or family member who may find themselves being reorganized or losing their job. That seems to be a problem we have here in Oklahoma, anyway."

Fife added that his experience as the first producer and host of National Native News, the Native American public radio news service, there were many such experiences with tribes across the country.

When the question of freedom of the press being an illusion was raised, DeMain said Native reporters have to find a way to work around it.

"When you're a reporter covering events on a national and

international level you have to take all that stuff into consideration. We've got indigenous nations in the western hemisphere and everyone deals with a little bit different. I thought that Richard LaCourse (the late Yakima journalist) said it best at one point when he said, "This is an exciting period because, as tribal courts begin deal with issues of freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech—all that go with each other, that there were certain covenants that were being codified in tribal law now, that were in the oral tradition and the ancient rules of conduct within our communities."

"Now you overlay that with money, jobs, nepotism, political desire and those kinds of things then you get the results that you're talking about. When I was editor of the Lac Courte Oreille News here, I had to help write a press release that basically said, 'Despite rumors in the community that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was at the tribal office carting away cabinets that was not what was going on.' The chairman had me write the press release as their Public Communications Officer/Editor of the newspaper. I wrote the press release with his quotes about how he's denying allegations that the FBI was seizing these records. Now, I was in the same building watching the FBI seize the records, so our chairman, at that particular time was lying."

"An hour or two later, as editor of the Lac Courte Oreille newspaper, I wrote a press release, sent it out. The press called me up and said, 'Look, in the last hour you sent out two releases. In one you said the FBI is investigating embezzlement at the tribal office. The other one denied it and quoted the chairman as saying it was untrue. What's the truth?'"

"I said, well here's my problem. I'm the public information officer and I'm editor of the newspaper. We put them out, and I was fired by the tribal chairman that day. I was told not to come back to my job that it was done with. That I would never work."

The vice-chairman came and saw me an hour later and said to report to work the next day." **CONTINUED AUG. 1**

## FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Breuningur from Broken Arrow, Okla. "I also enjoy spending time at the rodeo. It is a nice experience."

This year's festival entertainment headliners were: country musician Aaron Lewis, also the front man for the band Staind, who performed June 21 and R&B artist Natalie Cole who opened for Smokey Robinson June 22.

According to Lowe, his department is already looking to book artists for next year's festival.

"We always try to set the standard for entertainment so we're already trying to get a couple of big headliners."

Special guests R.J. and Jay Paul Molinere of the History Channel's show 'Swamp People' were also present June 22 as part of the festival parade and prior to the evening's entertainment to meet the public and sign autographs.

Another Festival favorite, the food vendors, were also present.

"It is nice to get together with other Indians and enjoy all the good food," said Litty Taylor from Henryetta, Okla. "Visiting with old friends I have not seen in a long time and watching the fast pitch softball games."

To celebrate 'We Are Mvskoke,' Festival attendees commented on some of their favorite aspects of the event.

"Everything is my favorite part," said Kelli Proctor from Okmulgee. "It is fun getting my son Josh out here and see the different activities. He and I have been having fun all weekend long. It is good to be able to come out here and listen to good music, see friends you do not see all of the time."

Vonda Switch from Okmulgee was also pleased to join in the activities with her friends.

"I like coming out to the festival," she said. "Running into old friends and seeing family is fun."

Lowe and his department are looking ahead to next year's festival, which will be a big milestone in the history of the event.

"I would like people to be aware that next year is the 40th year of the Festival, so we're trying to do bigger and better things."



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## Creek Council House Museum Association Prepares Collections for Public Auction

### CCHMA an independent entity outside governmental management of MCN

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. – The Creek Council House Museum Association (CCHMA) recently announced its decision to auction Muscogee (Creek) collections and artifacts to the public. This was a decision made solely by the association’s board of directors and not that of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal government, as the CCHMA, formerly the Creek Indian Memorial Association (CIMA), has always operated as an independent entity outside of direct governmental management of the MCN.

The CIMA was established in 1923.

The decision to auction items has raised many questions by tribal members, former artifact owners, donors and the general public.

The MCN purchased the Council House in 2010 but it did not purchase the collections, furnishings or contents of the building.

After the transfer of the

Council House to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the CCHMA continued to operate, assert and maintain its standing as an independent non-profit corporation of the State of Oklahoma.

All items and artifacts that were either donated or sold to the Creek Council House Museum over the years have always been owned or controlled by the CIMA/CCHMA, not the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

“Unfortunately, we do not have control over the items,” said MCN Principal Chief George Tiger. “They are of invaluable importance to us as a tribe and as a people.”

The CCHMA has always existed as an independent non-profit corporation, and the MCN has never had the legal authority to dissolve the CCHMA or forcefully take the collections and artifacts.

The CCHMA is now in the process of preparing some or all of its collections and artifacts for public auction. Any MCN citizen or others who may have donated items to the Council House are advised to contact the CCHMA at 918-758-6511.

## NCAIED now accepting nominations for 40 under 40 awards and scholarships

Media Release

MESA, Ariz. — The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development is now accepting applications for the NCAIED American Indian Fellowship in Business Scholarship and nominations for our 2013 “Native American 40 Under 40” Awards. The deadline for application and nomination submissions is August 2, 2013.

The NCAIED American Indian Fellowship in Business Scholarship Awards is presented annually to several deserving American Indian undergraduate or graduate students majoring

### COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

transportation program. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-078 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a consulting agreement for the development of the MCN long-range transportation plan. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-079 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a 401(k) plan, a defined contribution and trust and other related documents with Bank of Oklahoma for the administration of individual employee 401(k) accounts. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-081 Confirming the nomination of Buddy York as a full-time gaming commissioner of the MCN Office of Public Gaming. Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-082 Authorizing the principal chief to submit a rural business opportunity grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture to provide leadership and entrepreneur training. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-083 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an AT&T ILEC Plexar II Service pricing schedule for the MCN Sapulpa Indian Health Center. Rep. Kara Medina sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-084 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a relationship agreement between the MCN and Willowheart, LLC. Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 9-7 with Reps. David Nichols, Pete Beaver, Frank Coachman, Dode Barnett, Hill, Hufft and LaGrone voting against it.

- TR 13-088 Authorizing the principal chief to execute the Alliance MOU with the University of Phoenix, Inc. to support the benefits of educational opportunities. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-089 Authorizing the MCN to participate in the pilot project of the Violence Against Women Act. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-010 Authorizing a donation of \$50,000 to the National Indian Education Association. The donation was reduced to \$20,000. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-1 with Medina voting against it.

- NCA 13-091 Authorizing the principal chief to make certain commitments to the Unites States Federal Reserve system in order to qualify as a bidder at an

in business. These scholarships are awarded to recipients who have demonstrated a commitment to pursuing excellence in academics and giving back to the American Indian community. The scholarship awards will be presented at our new, exciting and multifaceted fall Regional Reservation Economic Summit Arizona (RES Arizona) to be held in October.

The NCAIED “Native American 40 Under 40” Awards recognizes 40 emerging American Indian leaders less than 40 years of age who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication to achieve significant contributions in their businesses, communities and Indian Country. The “40 Under 40” Awards will be presented at the 38th Annual Indian Progress in Business Awards 2013, which will be a part of RES Arizona.

RES Arizona will feature respected tribal leaders, state, and

auction on a portion of the U.S. Treasury’s preferred stock ownership position in SpiritBank and approving certain legal provisions including a limited waiver of sovereign immunity in furtherance of the commitments. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-2 with Nichols and Barnett voting against it.

- NCA 13-135 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$776.17 to assist a Muscogee (Creek) student. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-137 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,933.17 to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-139 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$43,800 to the MCN Department of Senior Service fiscal year 2013 budget. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-140 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$500 to the Dewar Sooners Baseball team. Reps. Lena Wind and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-142 Appropriating \$521,663.74 for the construction of a building for the MCN Women, Infants and Children Program. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-143 Authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act grant to the MCN Cultural Preservation department for repatriation services. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-144 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,400 for unpaid funeral services of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-145 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$145,550 to the Higher Education Incentive Grants program fiscal year 2013 budget. Greene and Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-146 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$500 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-147 Amending NCA 10-026 authorizing a special appropriation to the Salem/Ryal elderly nutrition program to continue funding for the cook position. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-149 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$27,159 for the MCN Department of Community Research and Development fiscal year

local elected officials and top

CEO’s, networking, teaming opportunities, business development sessions, American Indian procurement expo and much more. RES Arizona will continue to mark the expansion of the NCAIED’s highly successful National Reservation Economic Summit (National RES) into more regionally focused events throughout the nation. NCAIED’s national event, “National RES” is the premier American Indian business conference in the Nation. Our next Regional Reservation Economic Summit will be held June 17-19 at the beautiful Pechanga Resort and Casino, located in Temecula, Calif.

For more information and to download forms, please visit: <http://www.ncaied.org>

For sponsorship inquiries regarding our Regional RES events, please e-mail: [sponsor@ncaied.org](mailto:sponsor@ncaied.org).

2013 budget. Rep. Keeper Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-150 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,000 to the Muskogee Rougher Summer Pride program. Beaver sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely by 16-0.

- NCA 13-152 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 20 percent for the MCN Department of Information Technology. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-153 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Commerce fiscal year 2013 budget to establish seed capital for a community development financial institution (CDFI) tribal loan fund. Barnett and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-154 Repealing MCN Code Annotated Title 17, Chapter 7 entitled, “MCN Economic Development Committee.” Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-155 Amending NCA 12-052 appropriating funds to the MCN Economic Development Committee and transferring remaining appropriated funds to the Secretary of the Nation’s department fiscal year 2013 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-156 Authorizing a donation of \$5,000 to the Fellowship of Native American Christians. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-1 with Barnett voting against it.

- NCA 13-157 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$560 to the Wetumka First Assembly of God. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-158 Appropriating \$500,000 to retain Willowheart, LLC. for the purposed of business development and advisory services. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-8 with Reps. Shirlene Ade, LaGrone, Barnett, Nichols, Coachman, Hill and Hufft voting against it.

- NCA 13-161 Authoring a special appropriation of \$186,000 to the Office of the Second Chief fiscal year 2013 budget. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-2 with Nichols and Yahola voting against it.

- NCA 13-162 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$500 to the Hostile Native basketball team. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

Rep. Keeper Johnson was absent.

## AFFAIRS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spoke during the press conference calling for more discussions.

“Now that we’ve got more people and more places, we’ve learned that we need to be communicating much more with one another. This will institute quarterly meetings with the tribal nations conference as the centerpiece and three other meetings among cabinet level officials. This executive order will institutionalize the tribal nations conference for this president and for future presidents,” Washburn said.

Jodi Gillette, Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs, White House Domestic Policy Council called the announcement a response to the priorities of tribal governments.

“When we talk about working in a coordinated and effective fashion, that’s something that tribal leaders have told us that we aren’t talking to each other enough. With that, we are going to be focusing on some areas, but at the end of the day, it’s really about supporting and promoting self – determination and self governance because we know that’s what works,” Gillette said.

Jewell only took three questions during the teleconference.

The first question asked about tribal involvement in the new council and access by native media.

“What I envision happening is introducing the council itself and understanding the role. I see it bringing in tribal leaders to every meeting that we have of this council. I think as it unfolds, we’ll have to narrow the focus down to our particularly topical issues. We’ll bring in expertise from tribal communities, working with organizations like NCAI to figure out who is able to represent the interests that cut across tribal interests,” Jewell said.

“In terms of press engagement, we certainly will find

opportunities engage the press in this, every step of the way.”

The ‘Muscogee Nation News’ asked Jewell how the new council would affect funding for tribes.

Jewell said, the council will play a pivotal role in funding decisions by bringing them to the forefront.

“What this council will do is make sure that tribal issues that span across a variety of different departments are brought to the forefront,” she said.

“As Secretary of the Interior, with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Education, it is more likely to come in front of me than say, one of the other cabinet secretaries. It’s very important that many of my colleagues, for whom Indian affairs might not be top of mind, that this conference puts those issues on their radar. The fact that this is a high level, that’s cabinet level officials and that we will bring people to the table to explain these issues, I think, will go a long way toward their advocacy within the budget that they control in working with the Office of Management and Budget and the president in pulling those budgets together for the future.”

Jewell was questioned whether or not the formation of the council was because tribal consultation had been slow in happening.

Jewell said the council will help by acquainting its members with the relationship assist with any problems in developing effective tribal consultation.

“As a newcomer to this role, I knew about sovereign nations. I didn’t fully understand the concept of self-determination, self-governance and how it interfaces with the federal government. I would expect that many of my colleagues in the cabinet will also not be astute in those issues. This council will bring all of us together to understand that more deeply.”



# 39th MvskoƧe Nation Festival

## Cornstalk shoot draws people from different tribes to compete

Darren DeLaune/ MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Cornstalk Shoot took place June 22 on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex during the heart of the 39th MvskoƧe Nation Festival.

Mike Berryhill, co-event coordinator, who has been with the Cornstalk Shoot since it originated over seven years ago commented on the diversity of the 45 contestants.

“We had another great turnout for the cornstalk shoot this year,” Berryhill said. “The Creeks, Yuchi, Cherokee and Chickasaw tribes were all represented here today.”

Berryhill spoke about the importance it is to have the shoot and how it promotes Native culture.

“The cornstalk shoot is what draws us together,” Berryhill said. “It is about our bows and arrows but another great thing is that we make our own. That is the bottom line and that is one way we learn to preserve our culture. It always amazes me every year when somebody shows me their bow and says, ‘I made this bow.’”

Pete Vann (Cherokee), who tied for third place at the Cornstalk Shoot, spoke on how the event is growing.

“We are always having a great time at the shoots,” Vann said. “We know we are competing against each other but we have a good fellowship before that time. We talk and catch up with each other. We see new faces at these events and we talk to them and get to know them. When it is time to shoot, we are ready to compete. After, we will continue talking.”

## Bass Classic brings new experience to Festival



Children who attended the 39th MvskoƧe Nation Festival Bass Classic June 16, recieved free fishing poles and lessons.

## Event hosts anglers at Lake Eufaula

Darren DeLaune/ MNN Reporter

EUFAULA, Okla. — Along with the slow pitch softball and three-on-three basketball tournaments, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism & Recreation Department added a new event to the first weekend of the MCN Festival, the Muscogee (Creek) Bass Classic held June 16 at the Lake Eufaula.

Event volunteer Yonne Tiger was pleased with the level of participation in the tournament.

“We were very nervous at first because of us starting late in getting everything ready,” she said. “When we started

getting everything together we ended having almost 50 contestants for this event. We are very happy with the turnout.”

The festival committee hopes to double the numbers of participants next year.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was on hand for the Bass Classic.

“We wanted to add something to our great festival,” he said. “We felt that a Bass Classic would be a great thing to help kickoff our festival and it has a been a great and positive turnout.”

The event featured \$1,000’s in prizes and children who attended the Bass Classic were given free fishing poles and lessons.

## Creek actress stars in The Dawes Commission



Lillian Thomas portrays the character ‘Sookey Harjo’ in Bob Hicks’ theatre production, ‘The Dawes Commission.’

## Thomas performs in MvskoƧe language play

Gerald Wofford/ MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. – When Bob Hicks decided to write, direct and produce a theatrical production based on the Dawes Commission, he knew he didn’t have to look too far to find the right person for the lead role.

He turned to Lillian Thomas.

“I had worked with Lillian before so I knew what she could do,” Hicks said.

Thomas’s knowledge of the MvskoƧe language contributed greatly to her selection for the role. In fact, Hicks met Thomas through a MvskoƧe Language class in Okmulgee.

“With the type of productions that I wanted to create, I was looking for someone that could speak the language fluently,” said Hicks.

Thomas recalls the meeting and remembers Hicks asking her if she might be interested in acting. Thomas was surprised by the offer.

“I was always shy and there was no way you could get me in front of anyone,” she said.

Thomas also performs with another Native American acting group.

“Thunder Road Theatre, which is based in Tulsa had asked me to help with some small skits they were performing at various communities and centers,” she said.

Hicks had directed a short film last year entitled “Two Sisters” about two elder Muscogee (Creek) sisters who

come to terms with family issues and their mortality. The film starred Thomas and fellow Muscogee (Creek) actress Myrtle Denny. The film won first place in the short subject category at the 2012 MvskoƧe Film Festival.

The “Dawes Commission” was performed at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex Mound Auditorium June 15, 20 and 21 during the 39th MvskoƧe Nation Festival.

In “The Dawes Commission,” Thomas played Sookey Harjo, a Muscogee (Creek) woman who lived in Indian Territory, which later became the state of Oklahoma in 1907. The U.S. Government created the Dawes Commission March 3, 1893 to convince the relocated Five Civilized Tribes to accept a policy, which divided tribal lands into allotments owned by individual tribal members rather than communally held Indian Territory.

During the play, Thomas’ character refuses to accept the government’s offer of individual land ownership despite the constant persistence of government agent Phillip Hopkins, played by Randy Belford. She cannot understand how communal land can be owned privately.

Other members of the cast include: Jackson Barnett, Myrtle Denny and Tvffolopy ‘Kogie’ Leach.

Hicks hopes to make the play into a short film but understands that doing so will involve choosing a proper location and props such as livestock.

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# 39th MUSKOGEE NATION

## Festival Results

### Junior Olympics

#### Tug of War 8 to 9 Boys

1. Thomas Mouse Jr.  
Polecat Community
- Connor Mcall  
William Edwards
2. Charles Manson  
Okmulgee Indian  
Community
- Devon Simmers  
Cal-lel Tecumseh
3. Hayden Hobia  
Kialegee Tribal Town
- Joseph Meashintubby  
Zach Hobia
- Ethan Battiest

#### Jump Rope 6 to 7 Boys

1. Giorgio Dunn  
Stunners
2. Charles Berryhill  
Okemah Panthers
3. Nathaniel Melton  
Okmulgee Indian  
Community

#### Jump Rope 8 to 9 Boys

1. Warren Dunn  
Koweta
2. Terrance Brooks  
HCIC Little Natives
3. Conner McCall  
Polecat

#### 1 Mile 12 to 13 Boys

1. Jason Bigpond  
Bistow
2. Cheyenne Watkins  
Glenpool
3. Deven Raines  
Okfuske

#### 1 Mile 14 to 15 Boys

1. Nick Cook  
Okemah Panthers
2. Jaylon Alexander  
Stunners
3. Dakota Miller  
Okemah Panthers

#### 400 Meter Relay 8 to 9 Boys

1. Daveon Asberry  
Okmulgee Indian  
Community
- Cal-lel Tecumseh  
Caleb Jeremiah Parker
- Kyron Grayson
2. Kailas Mack  
Okfuske
- Isaac Harjo  
Dallen Hill
- Malakhi Leader  
Jon Arredondo
3. Terrance Brooks  
HCIC Little Natives
- Marcus Kehl Harjo  
Canugee Tiger

#### 400 Meter Relay 10 to 11 Boys

1. Sylis Crockett  
Muscogee Indian  
Community

- Darian Davis
- Jakoby Gouldsby
- Mark Gouldsby
- Jaylen Dowling
2. Kaden Shan Charboneau  
Wagoner
- Braden Drake
- Avery Hodges
- Max Brown
- Sawyer Jones
3. Darian Hill  
Okfuskee
- Tayten Fixico
- Korey West
- Diego Jones
- Justin Mack

#### 400 Meter Relay 12 to 13 Boys

1. Miguel Lopez  
Glenpool Tvstvnkvkke
- Anthony Billie  
Caleb Bigpond
- Cheyenne Watkins
2. Kolby Battiest  
Little Choctaws

- Raul Trejo
- Kelton Mathis

3. Brock Hicks  
Okfuskee
- Deven Raines
- Joseph Kahbeah

#### 400 Meter Relay 14 to 15 Boys

1. Nick Cook  
Okemah Panthers
- Logan Daly
- Isaiah Hicks
- Dakota Millers
2. Christopher Cohen  
Stunners
- Khalil Harris
- Eugene Kahbeah Jr.
- Jaylon Alexander
3. Armon Crockett  
Muscogee Indian  
Community
- Eric Wyatt Falter
- Cecil Rhoden
- Jerrell Lang

#### 400 Meter Dash 12 to 13 Boys

1. Deven Raines  
Okfuskee
2. Blake Dumond  
Wagoner

#### 400 Meter Dash 14 to 15 Boys

1. Jacob Meadows  
Koweta
2. Austin Condict  
Wagoner

#### 200 Meter Dash 10 to 11 Boys

1. Cotchchochee Watson  
Muscogee Indian  
Community
2. Jakoby Gouldsby
3. Sylis Crockett

#### 200 Meter Dash 12 to 13 Boys

1. Cheyenne Watkins  
Glenpool Tvstvnkvkke
2. Anthony Billie  
Glenpool Tvstvnkvkke
3. Stephon Hall  
OKC Native Youth

#### 200 Meter Dash 14 to 15 Boys

1. Logan Daily  
Okemah Panthers
2. Dakota Miller  
Okemah Panthers
3. Eugene Kahbeah Jr.  
Stunners

#### 100 Meter Dash 8 to 9 Boys

1. Malachi Harris  
Checotah
2. Avery Ortiz  
Individual
3. Phoenix Randleman  
Individual

#### 100 Meter Dash 10 to 11 Boys

1. Mark Gouldby Jr.  
Muscogee Indian  
Community
2. Jakoby Gouldsby
3. Cotchchochee Watson

#### 100 Meter Dash 12 to 13 Boys

1. Cheyenne Watkins  
Glenpool Tvstvnkvkke
2. Addisyn Lena  
OKC Native Youth
3. Stephon Hall  
OKC Native Youth

#### 100 Meter Dash 13 to 14 Boys

1. Logan Daily  
Okemah Panthers
2. Darius Tiger  
Okfuskee
3. Eugene Kahbeah Jr.  
Stunners

#### 50 Meter Dash 6 to 7 Boys

1. Kordell Gouldsby  
Muscogee Indian  
Community
2. Noah Pigeon  
Weleetka
3. Jonas Smith  
Glenpool

#### 50 Meter Dash 8 to 9 Boys

1. Allen Thierry Jr.  
Okemah Panthers
2. Frank 'Walter' Newton  
Muscogee Indian  
Community
3. Kailas Mack  
Okfuskee

#### 50 Meter Dash 10 to 11 Boys

1. Jacob Todd  
Glenpool Tvstvnkvkke
2. Sylis Crockett  
Muscogee Indian  
Community
3. Mark Gouldsby Jr.  
Muscogee Indian  
Community

#### 50 Meter Dash 12 to 13 Boys

1. Anthony Billie  
Glenpool Tvstvnkvkke
2. Jason Bryant  
Polecat
3. Perry Bartels  
Koweta

#### 30 Meter Dash 6 to 7 Boys

1. Kordell Gouldsby  
Muscogee Indian  
Community
2. Noah Pigeon  
Weleetka
3. Ryan Grayson  
Okmulgee Indian  
Community

#### 30 Meter Dash 8 to 9 Boys

1. Fredrick Watson III  
Muscogee Indian  
Community
2. Avery Ortiz  
Individual
3. Frank 'Walker' Newton  
Muscogee Indian  
Community

#### Long Jump 6 to 7 Boys

1. Cade Williams  
Bristow Indian  
Community
2. Ryan Grayson  
Okmulgee Indian  
Community
3. Kaedyn Bagby  
Alabama-Quassarte  
Redhawks

#### Long Jump 8 to 9 Boys

1. Colby Harrison  
Holdenville
2. Phoenix Randleman  
Individual
3. Jonas Manley  
Weleetka

#### Long Jump 10 to 11 Boys

1. Daveon Hill  
Okfuskee
2. Jayden Thompson  
Glenpol Tvstvnkvkke
3. Bendan Dan  
Checotah Indian  
Community

#### Long Jump 12 to 13 Boys

1. Anthony Billie  
Glenpool Tvstvnkvkke
2. Jason Bigpond  
Bristow Indian  
Community
3. Caleb Bigpond  
Glenpool Tvstvnkvkke

#### Long Jump 14 to 15 Boys

1. Christopher Cohen  
Stunners
2. Jaylon Alexander  
Stunners
3. Jacob Meadows  
Koweta

#### Softball Throw 6 to 7 Boys

1. Noah Pigeon  
Weleetka
2. Kordell Gouldsby  
Muscogee Indian  
Community
3. Eli Sharp  
Okmulgee Indian  
Community

#### Softball Throw 8 to 9 Boys

1. Kobe Harrison  
HCIC Little Natives
2. Brody Murphy  
Weleetka
3. Kailas Mack  
Okfuskee

#### Softball Throw 8 to 9 Boys

1. Sawyer Jones  
Wagoner
2. Jakoby Gouldsby  
Muscogee Indian  
Community
3. Christian Yargee  
Okfuskee

#### Softball Throw 10 to 11 Boys

1. Kobey Lee Billie  
Glenpool Tvstvnkvkke
2. Tayten Fixico  
Okfuskee
3. James Micco  
Weleetka

#### Hoop Shoot 12 to 13 Boys

1. Tyson Micco  
Weleetka
2. Tenetke King  
Okfuskee
3. Michael Lena  
HCIC Little Natives

#### Hoop Shoot 14 to 15 Boys

1. Kendal Tiger  
Okfuskee
2. Jaylon Alexander  
Stunners
3. Darius Tiger  
Okfuskee

#### Tug of War 8 to 9 Girls

1. Destiny Wind-Long  
Alabama Quassarte  
Redhawks
- Jordy Tilley
- Mya Tiger

2. Jayden Micco  
Weleetka

Jayley Ray

- Jadencer Sanders
- Loren Manley

3. Ramya Redden  
Kialegee Tribal Town

#### Jump Rope 6 to 7 Girls

1. Tayler Lindsey  
OKC
2. Dezmond Lewis  
Okmulgee Indian  
Community
3. Tatiyona Marie Harris  
Okmulgee Indian  
Community

#### Jump Rope 8 to 9 Girls

1. Kailyn Bearpaw  
Polecat
2. Ramya Redden  
Kialegee Tribal Town
3. Audrey Roberts  
Okmulgee Indian  
Community





# 39th MYSKOKE NATION Festival Results

## 5K

### Overall Male Winners Age 1 to 98

- Brandon Payne/Age: 22  
Henryetta/Time: 16:30
- Colton Green/Age: 17  
Henryetta/Time 16:54
- Kaleb Harrison/Age 14  
Seminole/Time: 19:29

### 5K Male Age 1 to 12

- Perry Bartels/Age: 12  
Tulsa/Time: 28:24
- Sam Litchfield/Age: 10  
Sand Springs/Time: 29:24
- Aryc Byrd/Age: 7  
Okmulgee/Time: 31:49

### 5K Male Age 13 to 19

- Colton Green/Age: 17  
Henryetta/Time: 16:54
- Kaleb Harrison/Age 14  
Seminole/Time: 19:29
- Damon Peak/Age 17  
Okmulgee/Time: 20:23

### 5K Male Ages 20 to 29

- Brandon Payne/Age 22  
Henryetta/Time: 16:30
- James Monroe/Age: 29  
Ada/Time: 20:49
- Adam Youngbear/Age: 22  
Watonga/Time: 21:01

### 5K Male Age 30 to 39

- James Pope/Age: 35  
Okmulgee/Time: 23:17
- Monte Randall/Age: 39  
Mounds/Time: 26:23
- T.R. Washington/Age: 35  
Okmulgee/26:53

### 5K Male Age 40 to 49

- Aaron Hannah/Age: 46  
Siloam Springs, Ark.  
Time: 20:40
- John Wilson/Age: 48  
Okay/Time: 24:35
- J.R. Taylor/Age: 40  
Henryetta/Time: 30:01

### 5K Male Age 50 to 59

- Jim Guyot/Age: 52  
Broken Arrow/Time 22:36
- Craig Philson/Age: 54  
Broken Arrow/Time 24:58
- Charlie Fixoco/Age 57  
Albuquerque, N.M.  
Time: 26:58

### 5K Male Age 60 to 69

- Bunnie Factor/Age: 64  
Okmulgee/Time: 44:18
- Joe Washington/Age: 65  
Muscogee/Time: 50:47
- James Yellowfish/Age: 62  
Dallas/Time: 58:38

### 5K Male Age 70 to 98

- Billy Chalakee/Age: 75  
Okmulgee/Time: 50:12
- Kristi Perryman/Age: 40  
Sand Springs/Time: 22:41
- Leta Tolbert/Age: 25  
Okmulgee/Time:26:56

### 5K Female Age 1 to 98

- Kristi Perryman/Age: 40  
Sand Springs/Time: 22:41
- Leta Tolbert/Age: 25  
Okmulgee/Time:26:56
- Rebecca Leclair/Age: 40  
Muscogee/27:02

## Gator Raffle

Dave Herbeck

### 5K Female Age 1 to 12

- Jayla McIntosh/Age: 11  
Eufaula/Time: 39:36
- Tiara Billie/Age: 10  
Seminole/Time: 40:11
- Shelby Thompson/Age: 9  
Seminole/Time: 40:11

### 5K Female Age 13 to 19

- Vanessa Chupco/Age: 17  
Seminole/Time: 31:09
- Nancy Deere-Turney  
Age: 19/Okemah  
Time: 48:45
- Andrea Cole/ Age: 16  
Haskell/Time: 52:13

### 5K Female Age 20 to 29

- Leta Tolbert/Age: 25  
Okmulgee/Time: 26:56
- Hannah Brown/Age: 29  
Schulter/Time: 27:40
- Jessica Wisner/Age: 29  
Kiefer/Time: 27:41

### 5K Female Age 30 to 39

- Amanda Cothorn/Age: 33  
Tulsa/Time: 29:25
- Laura Washington/Age: 34  
Muscogee/Time: 29:45
- Letisha Leblanc/Age 36  
Okmulgee/Time: 33:52

### 5K Female Age 40 to 49

- Kristi Perryman/Age: 40  
Sand Springs/Time: 22:41
- Rebecca Leclair/Age: 40  
Muscogee/Time: 27:02
- Teresa Notah/Age: 49  
OKC/Time: 27:40

### 5K Female Age 50 to 59

- Terri Bartels/Age: 59  
Tulsa/Time: 34:44
- Mary Narcomey/Age: 50  
Depew/Time: 38:12
- Christine Ludlow/Age: 51  
Catoosa/Time: 38:50

### 5K Female Age 60 to 69

- Denny Lee/Age: 60  
Morris/Time: 32:25
- Linda Peeler/Age: 60  
Morris/Time: 35:25
- Kathy Perryman/Age: 64  
Tulsa/Time: 39:11

### 5K Female Age 70 to 98

- Lillian Thomas/Age: 70  
Okmulgee/Time: 54:52
- Tribal Brothers  
Men's Champions
- Chitto Harjo  
Women's Champions

### Fast pitch

- Tribal Brothers  
Men's Champions
- Chitto Harjo  
Women's Champions
- Kansas Indians  
Men's 2nd Place

### Slow pitch

- Men's
- Women's
- Co-Ed

### Slow pitch

- Men's
- Women's
- Co-Ed

- LRS
- Renegades
- Co-Ed

- Legends
- Highrollers

## All Indian Rodeo

Bareback  
Cody Parker/Cherokee  
Wilburton, Okla.

Saddlebronc  
KC Longbrake  
Cheyenne River Sioux  
Eagle Butte, SD

Calf Roping  
Walt White  
Muscogee (Creek)  
Ochelata, Okla.

Ladies BKA  
Kasi Prather/Cherokee  
Ochelata, Okla.

Junior BKA  
Addee Carder/Cherokee  
Miami, Okla.

Senior BKA  
Dick Foreman/Cherokee  
Oaks, Okla.

SW  
Wes Marrel/Cherokee  
Checotah, Okla.

TR - Header  
Joel Maker/Osage  
Tahlequah, Okla.

TR - Heeler  
Boog Roberts  
Muscogee (Creek)  
Okmulgee, Okla.

SR TR - Header  
Mick Foreman/Cherokee  
Rose, Okla.

SR TR - Heeler  
Tarz Foreman/Cherokee  
Oaks, Okla.

Barrels  
Ashlie Withrow  
Western Cherokee  
Henryetta, Okla.

Junior Barrels  
Shawna Hamlin/Cherokee  
Stilwell, Okla.

PW Barrels  
Brook Pipins/Choctaw  
Stigler, Okla.

Senior Barrels  
Bobbie Foreman/Cherokee  
Rose, Okla.

Junior Steers  
Ty Cunningham  
Muscogee (Creek)  
Wagoner, Okla.

Bull Riding  
Ty Cunningham  
Muscogee (Creek)  
Wagoner, Okla.

Mutton Bustin  
Buggy Gatewood  
Choctaw/Chickasaw  
Ardmore, Okla.

## Volleyball

- Sundevils/Captain:  
William Proctor
- Wolf Pack/Captain:  
Jonathan Kingfisher
- Wild Sets/Captain:  
Brian Culley

## Roberts and Region 8 go beyond 8 seconds



Muscogee (Creek) citizens Whitney (left) and Ryan Roberts (right) compete June 21-22 in the 39th Mvskoche Nation Festival Rodeo.

## Family's rodeo reputation built on a region, arena and legacy

Sterling Cosper/ MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Roy Roberts has played a major role in the development of his region, family and tribe in the world of rodeo.

Roy has quite literally built his family's legacy in rodeo from the ground up. In the early '80s, he was asked by former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief Claude Cox to help build the Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena and several other structures on the Claude A. Omniplex adjacent to the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

"I was a pipeline welder and I took off two years because they wanted me to build a rodeo arena, ball field and a fence around these 57 acres," he said. "From here (the arena) to the railroad tracks was nothing but mud. It's a good place now."

Along with his background in welding and the tribe, Roy grew up around the ranching lifestyle and passed these combined aspects of his past along to his family.

"My daddy was a calf roper and I've done a lot of bull riding, calf roping and team roping and I left it up to the kids to do," he said. "I built this arena here and I'm pretty proud of it and that's why the kids want to ride in it. I've roped this arena and now my kids and grandkids have."

Beyond an arena, the Roberts family has helped rebuild local rodeo Region 8, which is the Arrington McSpadden All Indian Rodeo Association of the Indian National Finals Rodeo.

Roy's son Bodie Robert's has played an integral role in the reformation of Region 8, which allows him to stay involved in rodeo while helping the next generation in the Roberts family.

"They asked me if I wanted to be a judge and sent me away to learn how," Bodie said. "I compete every now and again; it's just when I have time away from the kids. Other than that, it's just been about the kids. I've got two other daughters now and they're just now getting into it."

Teri McElyea, who is close to the family and a nurse in the emergency room at the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah, believes Bodie is following in his father's footsteps.

"Roy is doing exactly what his father did," she said. "Roy feeds and keeps the horses, brings and saddles the horses and makes sure the kids have horse to ride and now Bodie

is carrying on that tradition. He's stepping up to help us now."

This tradition continues to make a positive impact on the family. McElyea explained the difference rodeo has made in the life of Bodie's son Ryan Roberts and how Ryan has already become and example to others.

"It builds character; this is where they excel," she said. "I've seen Ryan blossom. He's confident. He can ride; he helps others. These little kids are following after him. He's been a really good role model."

Ryan, who is a bull rider, described his first ride.

"It was adrenaline, a big old blood rush. The first time I was scared. Now it's just go out there and have fun," he said. "You're going to get hurt. There's no, if's, and's or but's about it."

This pain has paid off however. Ryan has competed twice in the INFR Rodeo Championships in Las Vegas.

Ryan's cousin, Whitney Roberts also described her first time in completion.

"I started running barrels when I was five off of an old roping horse that was like 37-years-old. The first time I went out there, I started smiling and waving to everybody," she said.

Much like her cousin, Whitney has seen progress since she started.

"The horse I'm riding now, I've had for about 14 years," she said. "He was born at my house and we've been doing pretty good. I've won a couple saddles off of him and we went to Vegas once."

Collectively, the entire family has been successful.

"We've won some trailers, belt buckles, money and saddles. We've made a couple trips to the Indian finals in Las Vegas and I think we're going to make it again this year in bull riding," Roy said.

The Roberts family hails from the Alligator Clan and Nuyaka Tribal Town of the MCN.

Family members Honey Creek, Russell, Kane, Whitney, Ryan, Darrayl and Boog all competed at the 39th Mvskoche Nation Festival Rodeo June 21-22 in the arena Roy helped construct.

Bodie, who was a judge during the event, commented on the importance of rodeo in his life and the life of his family.

"They said the day they took me out of the hospital, they put me on a horse and that's where I've been ever since," he said. "I've got these two boys here and my nephew and niece and they like to rodeo. So we've pretty much decided the kids are the most important things in our lives and that's what we want to do is take them rodeoing."





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**Win \$10 - \$100 Free Play after \$20 coin in.**  
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**Contest Ticket Prize Drawings**  
**Grand Prize Finale**  
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**See the July Newsletter for more details.**

Noon to 8:00 PM  
Each Diamond Club member will receive a complimentary 20th Anniversary T-shirt, 20's style hat, and chocolate cigar.  
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# COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL EVENTS 2013

## Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp reaches MCN youth



Summer Youth/Audrey Underwood  
Youth and coaches gather around special guest Coach Barry Switzer June 28 during the third annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp in Weleetka, Okla.

## Camp teaches youth about football and life

Evan Tansey/Summer Youth

WELEETKA, Okla. — Former University of Oklahoma quarterback Jamelle Holieway held the third annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp June 28-29 in Weleetka, Okla.

Nearly 160 children of all ages and from all over the state attended the camp to learn techniques, fundamentals and teamwork from former and current collegiate players and coaches.

“It is a good experience for the young kids to learn the fundamentals of the game,” said Holieway. “When they get tired, they can fall back on what they learned.”

The camp has progressed from where it started three years ago.

“Some kids have been here for three years straight,” said Holieway. “That’s really important to me to know that they are coming back each year to learn something, learn some more stuff but the same stuff to get better at it.”

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation helped by partnering with

the camp, which allowed the camp to reach Indian community youth.

“We never thought we could have the first one,” said Sandi Golden, sponsor for the MCN. “The Muscogee (Creek) Nation helped us and we partnered with the Indian community and school, so it is a pretty big thing. We are truly blessed.”

Former University of Oklahoma and Dallas Cowboys Head Coach Barry Switzer made an appearance at the camp to provide words of inspiration to the youth.

“I talked to them not about football but about life,” said Switzer. “I talked to them about things you get from playing the team sport and how they need to conduct themselves as citizens for the next thirty, forty, fifty years of living they have. These are the things I believe will hold them in good stead the rest of their life.”

Coach Switzer also shared what he thought about the camp.

“I think it is great for the kids in the area to be taught the best,” he said. “These guys know the fundamentals of football. The kids can learn a lot of football and help improve their techniques.”

## NATIVE WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP TO HOLD ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON JULY 27

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Native widow support group Este-Cate Hoktve Oyevlke (ECHO) is holding a luncheon July 27 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center to celebrate the group's one year anniversary.

The event will be catered by Black Jaxx BBQ and all are welcome to come and enjoy.

## JOM SCHOOL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION SET FOR JULY 30-31 AND AUG. 1-2

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Okmulgee Johnson O'Malley Program school supply distribution for Preschool - 12th grade is scheduled July 30-31 and Aug. 1-2 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Okmulgee High School in the JOM office located on the 3rd floor.

For more information contact Jan Colombin at: 918-752-7890.

## CULLY/LOWE RE-UNION SET FOR AUG. 10

KONAWA, Okla. — A Cully/Lowe family reunion is scheduled Aug. 10 at Konawa Park.

Family members are to bring food items for hamburgers, hotdogs and hot links by 10 a.m. for lunch to be served at 12 p.m.

Family members are also to bring a prize for bingo.

For more information contact Sheila Scott at: 405-452-3262.

## MCN BAR ASSOCIATION ELECTION SET FOR AUG. 15

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Bar Association is holding officer elections for 2013-2014, Aug. 15 at 6 p.m. in the MCN Mound Building auditorium.

Nominations will be taken from the general membership at the meeting Aug 15 for: president, vice president and secretary/treasurer.

Members must be in good standing and physically present to vote. Proxy voting will not be accepted. Officers elected that evening will serve from Aug. 18, 2013 - Aug. 18, 2014.

For more information call: 918-758-1439 or email cdearman@mcnsupremecourt.com.

FILED JUN 28 2013 COURT CLERK'S OFFICE - OKC CORPORATION COMMISSION OF OKLAHOMA

APPLICANT: TILFORD PINSON EXPLORATION, LLC  
RELIEF SOUGHT: DRILLING AND SPACING UNITS  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: E/2 OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 12 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST, OKFUSKEE COUNTY AND SEMINOLE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

CAUSE CD NO. 201301355

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: Alexander Epton Mineral Properties Trust dated February 4, 2012 c/o Alexander Brady Epton Amir Hasan; Andrew Theodore Tomlinson Revocable Trust dated December 26, 2007; Andrew Theodore Tomlinson, Trustee; Andrews Royalty, Inc.; Bill Parks and Tom Parks and/or Vivian Mills and Derek Parks, Co-Trustees of the Living Trust of Bill Parks dated March 9, 1992; Boley Mennonite Church, Inc.; Bureau of Indian Affairs Attn: Superintendent Okmulgee Agency; Byron Gail Ratterree; Charlene Nara Butz; Clayton DeWayne Fitchett; Cornelius L. Dueck, aka C. L. Dueck; Annie Dueck; Cornelius P. Dueck; Gertrude Dueck; Cornelius Platt; David Dueck; Helena Dueck; Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office Bureau of Indian Affairs Attn: Gretchen Linch; Ed Friesen; Betty Friesen; Edwin Loewen; Irma Loewen; Elizabeth Hug; Helene Brew; Elson Oil Company; Ervin Platt; Betty Platt; Frank Kornelsen; Roseline Kornelsen; Gary J. Lamb; George Platt; Helen Platt; Henry Dueck; Mary Dueck; Jake Martens; Verna Martens; Jim Friesen; Irene Friesen; John M. Huser Family Trust; Shirley Huser, Trustee; John Platt; Helena Platt; John W. Brown; Jon M. Morgan; Jonny Miller; Restricted Creek Indian Roll #5988 c/o Joy Chaudhuri; Joyce Parks Tomlinson; Kathryn K. Huser Trust; Kathryn Huser and Robert Kyle, Trustees; Kenneth Dueck; Joann Dueck; Klaus Dueck; Susie Dueck; Larry Kornelsen; Lennie Dewayne Turner; Lovetta Jo Steakley aka Lovetta J. Steakley; Max L. Mason and Sarah Ann Mason, Trustees of the Max L. Mason and Sarah Ann Mason Family Trust dated June 25, 1992; Meadow Properties, LLC; Millasp Family Minerals, LLC; Milton Dueck; Justin Dueck; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; N. E. McNeill, Jr.; Nancy E. Wulff, as Trustee of the Nancy E. Wulff Trust established April 9, 1994; Obara Mann Smith; Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation; P. Brown; Paul Huser Testamentary Trust; William Huser, Sue Carter and John Huser, Jr., Trustees; PEC Minerals LP; Peter B. Dueck; Marlene Dueck; Peter Kornelsen; Elizabeth Kornelsen; Peter L. Dueck; Maria Dueck; Petroleum Landowners Corporation, Ltd.; Producers & Refiners Corporation; Randy Platt; Stacie Platt; Robert G. Tucker; Margaret J. Tucker; Robert Lloyd Tucker; Sandra Gay Long; Sandra Virginia O'Brien; Sheldon Sherman; Stephanie Sherman Ratcliff c/o Sheldon Sherman; Susan H. Carter and Lorenzo Edward Carter 1998 Trust; Suzanne Tyler; The Richard Earl Reese, Jr. Mineral Trust dated 1/10/2009; John M. Gerkin, Trustee; Thomas E. Nix, Jr., Trustee of the Harvey B. Platt Testamentary Trust dated May 20, 2002; Triangle Royalty Corporation; Wanda Rogers; William D. Huser; Bernadine Fitchett; Bernice Turner Wheeler; Beryl B. Cunningham; C. L. Billingsley; Callie Turner Tyler; Clarence Robert Brown; D. J. Turner aka Dave J. Turner; Dave J.

FILED JUN 28 2013 COURT CLERK'S OFFICE - OKC CORPORATION COMMISSION OF OKLAHOMA

APPLICANT: TILFORD PINSON EXPLORATION, LLC  
RELIEF SOUGHT: POOLING  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: E/2 OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 12 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST, OKFUSKEE COUNTY AND SEMINOLE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

CAUSE CD NO. 201301356

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: Alexander Epton Mineral Properties Trust dated February 4, 2012 c/o Alexander Brady Epton; Andrews Royalty, Inc.; Bill Parks and Tom Parks and/or Vivian Mills and Derek Parks, Co-Trustees of the Living Trust of Bill Parks dated March 9, 1992; Boley Mennonite Church, Inc.; Bureau of Indian Affairs Attn: Superintendent Okmulgee Agency; Charlene Nara Butz; Clayton DeWayne Fitchett; Cornelius P. Dueck; Cornelius Platt; Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office Bureau of Indian Affairs Attn: Gretchen Linch; Elizabeth Hug; Helene Brew; Elson Oil Company; Ervin Platt; Betty Platt; Frank Kornelsen; Roseline Kornelsen; Gary J. Lamb; Jake Martens; Verna Martens; John W. Brown; Jon M. Morgan; Jonny Miller; Restricted Creek Indian Roll #5988 c/o Joy Chaudhuri; Klaus Dueck; Susie Dueck; Larry Kornelsen; Lennie Dewayne Turner; Max L. Mason and Sarah Ann Mason, Trustees of the Max L. Mason and Sarah Ann Mason Family Trust dated June 25, 1992; Meadows Properties, LLC; Millasp Family Minerals, LLC; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; N. E. McNeill, Jr.; Nancy E. Wulff, as Trustee of the Nancy E. Wulff Trust established April 9, 1994; Obara Mann Smith; Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation; P. Brown; PEC Minerals LP; Peter Kornelsen; Elizabeth Kornelsen; Petroleum Landowners Corporation, Ltd.; Producers & Refiners Corporation; Randy Platt; Stacie Platt; Robert G. Tucker; Margaret J. Tucker; Robert Lloyd Tucker; Sheldon Sherman; Stephanie Sherman Ratcliff c/o Sheldon Sherman; Susan H. Carter and Lorenzo Edward Carter 1998 Trust; Suzanne Tyler; The Richard Earl Reese, Jr. Mineral Trust dated 1/10/2009; John M. Gerkin, Trustee; Thomas E. Nix, Jr., Trustee of the Harvey B. Platt Testamentary Trust dated May 20, 2002; Triangle Royalty Corporation; Wanda Rogers; William D. Huser; Bernadine Fitchett; Bernice Turner Wheeler; Beryl B. Cunningham; C. L. Billingsley; Callie Turner Tyler; Clarence Robert Brown; D. J. Turner aka Dave J. Turner; Dave J. Turner, Jr.; Grace Maurine McCoy; Jean Howard; Helen Lewis McCoy Jones; Julia L. McVaine; Julia Tunney Wren; Lionel Tyler; Lennie H. Turner; Marian G. Cope; Martha J. Fuller; Mary Louise Spear; Mayann Tyler; Minnie Tyler; Kate M. Jones; D. E. Dempsey; Robert L. McVaine; Rosina Turner; Ruben Tyler, Jr.; Ruben Tyler, Sr.; Ruth H. Ferguson; Sandra Mann; Samuel Mayhew, Jr.; Sherlene Sherman; Thelma Epton and the Federal National Bank Trust Co. of Shawnee, Co-Trustees of the Thelma Epton 1983 Trust; W. B. Garrison; Willa Tyler; William D. McVaine, Jr.; William R. Turner; their heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, trustees, successors and assigns and all persons, owners, producers, operators, purchasers and takers of oil and gas, and all interested parties, particularly in Okfuskee County and Seminole County, Oklahoma.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: DISTRICT COURT FILED Case No.: JV 2012-08  
J.N., DOB: 09-23-12  
Alleged Deprived Children: 2013 JUL 2 PM 3 35  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
NOTICE OF HEARING TO: DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK  
Samara Noriega, Natural Mother

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2013 AT 1:30 P.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: DISTRICT COURT FILED Case No.: JV 2010-08  
J.B., DOB: 04-22-06  
Alleged Deprived Children: 2013 JUN 27 PM 1 08  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
NOTICE OF HEARING TO: DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK  
Amanda Butler, Natural Mother

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: DISTRICT COURT FILED Case No. JV-2012-10  
P.M., DOB: 01-23-04  
O.M., DOB: 11-29-99  
L.T., DOB: 07-13-07  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK  
Alleged Deprived Children: Steve Taylor, Natural Father to L.T., DOB: 07/13/07

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2013 AT 1:30 P.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.



FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

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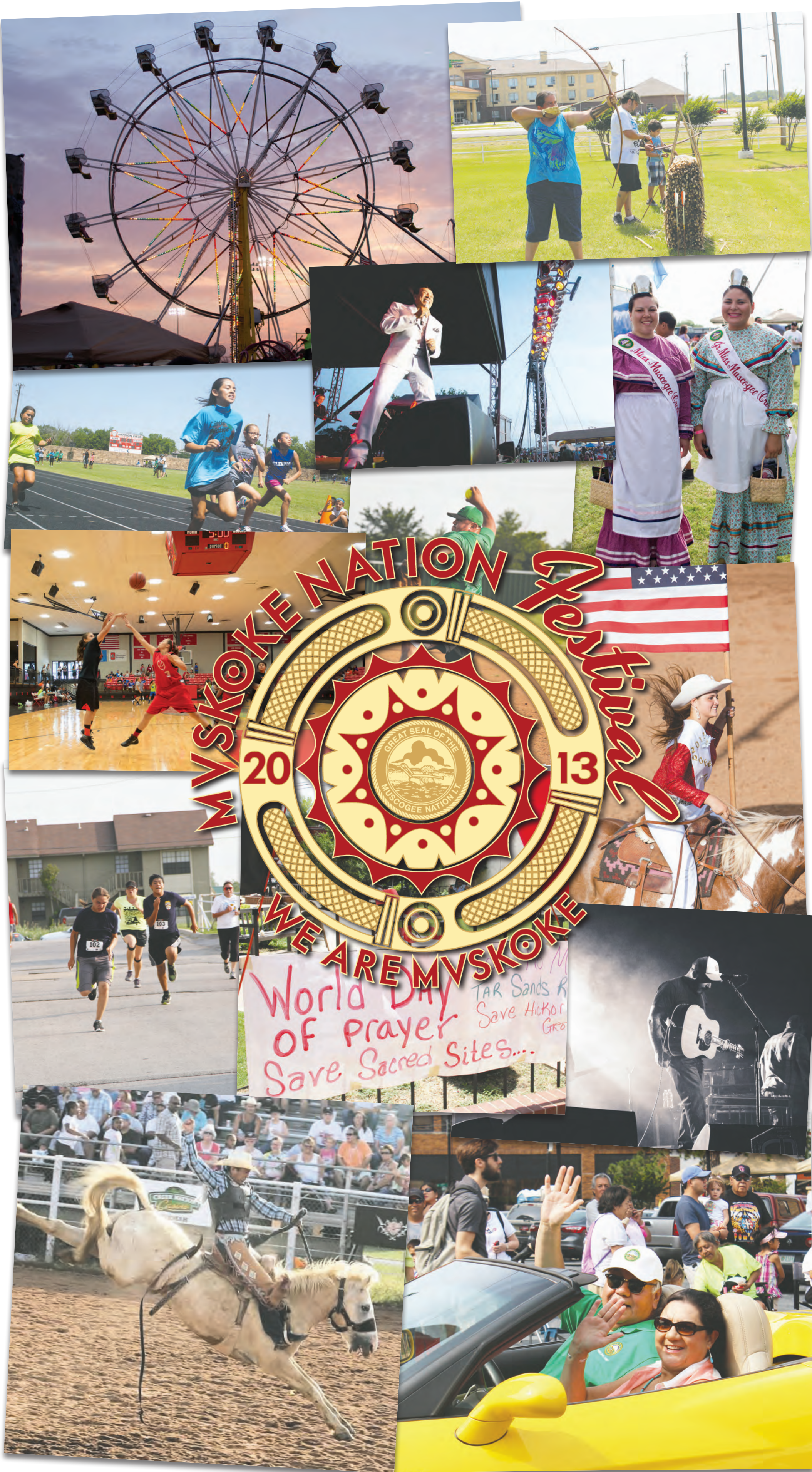
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Eligible applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Citizens, residing within the state of Oklahoma and using the home as their principle place of residence.

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IN ADDITION TO PHOTOS FROM THE MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS STAFF, SEVERAL VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS COORDINATED BY MVSOKKE MEDIA INTERN **AMANDA RUTLAND**, PROVIDED EXTENDED PROFESSIONAL PHOTO COVERAGE OF THE 39TH MVSOKKE NATION FESTIVAL. THE MNN STAFF WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND SAY 'MVTO' TO AMANDA AND THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

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**PEGGY HOGAN**

**ÉRIN MAZZEI**

**TRACY CROUCH**



INSIDE THE MNN:

IMPLICATIONS OF 'BABY VERONICA:'  
COUNCIL FOR ICWA CASE SPEAKS

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MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

Native issues addressed during  
Intertribal Council session

Council addresses  
mascots, CNG,  
Council House  
Artifacts and  
more

Sterling Cospert/MNN Editor

SULPHUR, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes was held July 11-12 at the Chickasaw Nation owned Artesian Hotel in Sulphur.

Resolutions considered during the general session July 12 addressed topics such as: federal funding for Haskell Indian Nations University during sequestration, the White House Council on Indian Affairs, a task force regarding Natural Gas Technologies, the Muscogee (Creek) Council House artifacts and the Washington, D.C. Redskins Professional Football Team mascot.

Resolution 13-21 urging Congress, Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Education to exempt Haskell Indian Nations University from the impact of sequestration.

Sequestration was a federal fiscal control measure put in place after the deadline for a partisan agreement over how to balance the federal budget expired March 1. The policy will result in spending cuts to a broad range of federally funded programs and



Submission/Chickasaw Media

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger speaks during the quarterly session of the Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes July 11-12 at the Chickasaw Nation owned Artesian Hotel in Sulphur, Okla.

entities like Haskell for the next 10 years.

Resolution 13-24 proposing the development of an Inter-Tribal Strategic Alternative Fuels Plan to jointly pursue opportunities in maximizing effectiveness in the adoption of energy efficient technology, supplying affordable energy while reducing fossil fuel emissions and ensuring paths be taken for current and future generations by pursuing a shared

commitment to environmental stewardship.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy's website, "Natural gas powers about 112,000 vehicles in the United States and roughly 14.8 million vehicles worldwide. The advantages of natural gas as a transportation fuel include its domestic availability, widespread distribution infrastructure, low cost, and clean-burning qualities."

Resolution 13-25 commending President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell for the executive order creating the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

The president signed the executive order June 26.

According to a DOI press release, the council was created to: promote sustainable economic development; support

COUNCIL - 2

Mvskoke Media brings home seven media awards

Native journalists  
gather for annual  
event

Sterling Cospert  
MNN Editor

TEMPE, Ariz. – Two national media organizations, the Native American Journalists Association and Native Public Media, teamed up to host the 29th annual National Native Conference July 18-21 in at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe.

The conference brought Native tribal journalists from across the country together to share and obtain knowledge and discuss topics pertaining to indigenous press issues.

Panel discussions and workshops were held on a broad array of subjects including: Native and national media outlet coverage of indigenous issues, social media, freedom of the press and explanatory sessions on legislation affecting Indian country such as the Violence



MNN/Sterling Cospert

Native American Journalist Association board members Christina Good Voice, center, and current President Mary Hudetz, right, honor outgoing NAJA President Rhonda LeValdo, left, for her six years of service to NAJA.

Against Women and Affordable Health Care Acts.

The conference also featured presentations from variety of national figures in Native media such as: Tom Arviso, CEO of the Navajo Times Publishing Company Inc.; Tim Giago, a founder of NAJA and the

founder Lakota Times originating the Oglala Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and Charles Trimble, Publisher of the Indian Times and principal founder of the American Indian Press Association (now NAJA).

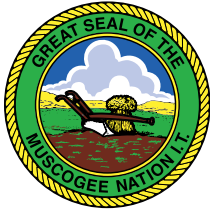
Two special events were

held away from the hotel conference center, the opening ceremony and reception July 18 held at the Heard American Indian Art and History Museum and the NAJA Student Awards Program and Celebration hosted by and on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Both are located in Phoenix.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' staff, a subsidiary of Mvskoke Media, took home the seven awards July 20 from the National Native Media Awards Banquet: second place for best sports photo, Editor Sterling Cospert; third place for best sports story, Reporter Darren DeLaune; second place for best news photo, Contributor Gerald Wofford, second and third place for best column, Editorial Assistant Gary Fife and the MNN was awarded third place for best layout and general excellence under former Editor Rebecca Landberry.

NAJA - 2

AUG. 1, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 15  
"HIYORAKKO"  
BIG HARVEST



Emvpunyv

'One who tells  
a story'

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla.—More than 40 years ago the iconic "crying Indian" advertising campaign appeared, produced by Keep America Beautiful and the Ad Council.

In the 1971, commercial Estehvtke (Caucasian) actor Iron Eyes Cody paddled a canoe in dirty waters and shed his famous tear. People loved that public service announcement.

That one always rubbed my fur the wrong way. Aside from the obvious problem of using a fake Indian to make their point, the ad people got it way wrong.

Who says we're going around crying about that abuse of Mother Earth?

I have in mind re-doing that silly thing and not with some guy crying about the mess.

Maybe I will do it.

Johnny Depp. I am a big fan of his work, but...

Right after the mess called "The Lone Ranger" or "Pirates of the Caribbean Go West" (as I call it), it is being said that the actor wants to help out the Oglala Sioux tribe in South Dakota and buy the land containing the site of the Wounded Knee tragedy.

Reports say that Depp has commented on a possible deal publicly and told the United Kingdom publication The Daily Mail, "It's very sacred ground and many atrocities were committed against the Sioux (tribe) there. In the 1970s there was a stand-off between the feds (U.S. Federal Government) and the people who should own that land."

Good for him. Hope it works out, although the asking price from the Estehvtke landowner is millions more than the land appraisal says it is worth.

The upcoming sale of the collection of the Creek Council House (formerly Museum) is raising a ruckus.

When the tribe bought the

EMVPUNYV - 2





MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

STAFF  
MANAGER  
CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE

EDITOR  
STERLING COSPER

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
GARY FIFE

REPORTER  
DARREN DELAUNE

FEATURE WRITER  
GERALD WOFFORD

CIRCULATION  
WILMA MURPHY

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TO SUBMIT A CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR A LETTER TO THE EDITOR, CALL 918 - 732 - 7720 OR SEND E-MAIL TO: WMURPHY@MCN-NSN.GOV.



The MNN is listed in Division IV Monthly/Bi-Monthly for the awards, which is for publications with a circulation of 5,000-9,999.

Elections for NAJA leadership positions were held during the conference and the results are as follows: NAJA Board members: Dalton Walker, Argus 911 Reporter at Argus Leader Media; Shannon Shaw Duty, Editor of the Osage News; Eugene Tapahe, Owner/Senior Designer at Tapahe Inventive Design; Robert Ortiz, Composition Technician with the Southern Ute Drum and NAJA President Mary Hudetz, West Regional Desk Editor at the Associated Press and Vice President Jason Begay, Assistant Professor at the University of Montana.

COUNCIL  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

greater access to and control over healthcare; improve the effectiveness and efficiency of tribal justice systems; expand and improve educational opportunities for Native American youth and protect and support the sustainable management of Native lands, environments, and natural resources.

Resolution 13-27 opposing the use of the term “Redskins” as the name of Washington D.C.’s NFL franchise and supporting Washington State Senator Maria Cantwell, Congressional Representative Tom Cole of Oklahoma and Betty McCollum of Minnesota in their commitment to rebrand said franchise.

The resolution stated that, “the use of the term “Redskins” as the name of a franchise is derogatory and racist...”

Cole and McCollum were involved in the introduction of a congressional bill March 20, “to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 regarding the disparagement of Native American persons or peoples through marks that use the term ‘redskin’ and for other purposes.”

Resolution 13-28 items donated to the Creek Council House Museum Association, which related to Muscogee (Creek) history, culture or arts, should be preserved and retained in perpetuity for the educational benefit and enjoyment of the Creek people now and in the future.

The MCN officially purchased the Council House from the City of Okmulgee Nov. 12, 2010. Under the previous municipal ownership, the city established a contract Creek Indian Memorial Association for the operation of the Council House, which transferred to the MCN with the purchase.

Tiger signed MCN National Council Resolution 12-050, May 2, 2012 terminating the management agreement with the Creek Indian Memorial Association (now the Creek Council House Museum Association), ending the association’s oversight of the Creek Council House.

Despite the termination of the contract, the museum association retained oversight of the artifacts,

which were display in the museum portion of the Council House. Recently, the association shipped the collection to Cowan’s Auctions Inc. in Cincinnati, Ohio for sale to the public starting Sep. 20.

Other resolutions included:

13-22 encouraging and supporting the Tribal Child Support Programs having direct access to the Federal Parent Locator Service and Federal Income Tax Refund Offset Program.

According to the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement website, the FPLS, “provides various systems, applications and initiatives to help state child support programs,” while the FITROP, “collects past-due child support payments from the tax refunds of parents who have been ordered to pay child support.”

13-23 establishing an Ad Hoc Committee for Food, Agriculture and Nutrition.

The resolution states, “the ITC recognizes the important role that food, agriculture and nutrition play in the social and economic wellbeing of Indian communities...ITC member tribes are interested in ensuring that food sovereignty is supported among its tribes...”

13-29 expressing support for the appointment of Richard Chissoe to the National Indian Gaming Commission...

The resolution listed Chissoe’s career background in gaming.

12-30 establishing an Ad Hoc Committee for (the prevention of) Violence Against Women.

The resolution states, “the ITC recognizes the devastating impact that domestic and sexual violence has on tribal communities and the need for coordinated efforts and responses to effectively address these crimes...”

The resolutions were all passed unanimously by ITC members: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker, Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Choctaw Nation Chief Greg Pyle and Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard Harjo.

The next ITC meeting Oct. 10-11 will be hosted by the MCN.

EMVPUNYV  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



place, it didn’t buy the collection.

Now, the Creek Council House Museum Association (which is an independent organization) has shipped the collection to the Cowan’s Auctions Inc. in Cincinnati, Ohio for sale to the public. The first sale is scheduled for this fall.

On June 25, a staffer of Cowen’s Auction House wrote on the auction’s website: “September 20th American Indian Art auction will be featuring the contents of the Creek Council House Museum Association’s collection. Two weeks ago in a whirlwind pick-up, the collection was packed up and driven from Okmulgee, OK to Cincinnati where we are now

going through and cataloguing the collection...paintings, peace medals, Seminole man’s Big Shirt, Creek garter, historic photography, Andrew Jackson signed document...there is a lot to look forward to!”

Lots of questions to be answered on that one.

Did you see the Festival parade? Over 90 units were part of the largest parade in festival history. Thanks to the folks who came over for pictures of the Star Wars marchers. We had fun and did sweat a lot under our helmets.

Hey, did anyone get a photo of the Muscogee royalty and our group? Would love to get a copy.

-Mvto.

Letter from the editor:  
Greetings from Sterling Cosp



Photo By: MM Intern/Amanda Rutland

Sterling Cosp  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hesci (hello) readers. My name is Sterling Cosp, the new editor of the Muscogee Nation News.

I was hired as a reporter in January 2012 and I have been serving as acting editor since May 1. Our July 15 Festival edition was my first as official editor.

Starting out, I was nervous stepping into this role after the departure of my colleague and personal friend, former MNN Editor Rebecca Landsberry.

Completing that first issue was quite harrowing. However, our fortitude as a staff has been solidified, as we have stayed consistent in our production and quality despite being short-handed during the busiest time of the year.

This feat is something I am certainly proud of and I was happy to tag my official title for the first time on our wonderful 39th Mvskoke Nation Festival edition. I owe a big ‘Mvto’ to many Mvskoke Media staff members for their contributions to this project and their continued contributions to our publication and department.

I have already begun implementing changes to improve the quality of the MNN and will continue to do so as I move forward as editor. One change you may have noticed over the last few editions was the recent redesign of the MNN, which was crafted to match the new theme of the tribal website, www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

As a reporter for the MNN, I started during the very eventful first year of the current administration.

I covered a broad array of subjects and events as a reporter, including: the Mvskoke Etlwv Festival, the MCN National Council, tribal programs, the Nation’s purchase of many new facilities and national issues such as the Idle No More movement and the Violence Against Women Act.

I am very grateful to my tribe, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for providing me with my first career job and giving me no shortage of events to cut my teeth on as I develop in my profession.

Born and raised in Wichita, Kan., I graduated from Wichita State University, where I studied at the Elliot School of Communication, in 2008 with a degree emphasis in print journalism.

After graduation, I joined the workforce and then moved to Anchorage, Ala. two years later. Upon returning to Wichita after a six-month stay in Alaska, my

grandmother who lives in Henryetta, Okla., informed me of the open reporter position at the MCN.

This was the start of a new chapter in my life, which led me to where I am today.

As editor, I will certainly miss being able to take as many photos or write as many stories as I did under my previous title. However, I am excited to apply this experience to the refinement of our content down the road and continue to learn new skills as I serve in this new capacity.

It has also been my pleasure to highlight many of our talented citizens in the past through feature stories I wrote as a reporter.

Considering my own development working for the MCN, I am certainly glad to spotlight other successful tribal members, acknowledging their accomplishments in print for the rest of the Nation to see.

While I certainly enjoy the positive tone of feature stories, it is also my belief that it is our duty as journalists to provide transparency regarding our tribal government for our citizens.

MNN Editorial Assistant Gary Fife has written an article based on a recent Mvskoke Radio show regarding the challenges and importance of this duty in tribal journalism. While I will touch on this issue briefly, I encourage you to read this story, which is being run as a two-part story within the July 15 and Aug. 1 editions.

You may have noticed that we have touched on freedom of the press in tribal government several times in the past. This is due to our belief that the press, which has been referred to as the ‘fourth estate,’ is an important component of the checks and balances system of any government.

On the subject of government, I’d like to remind you of the upcoming MCN elections. The primaries will be held Sept. 21 and the general election is set for Nov. 2. We are currently gathering information for our candidate profiles, which will be run in an upcoming edition.

Here at Mvskoke Media, we recently won an election of our own. We will be bringing home seven awards from this year’s Native American Journalist’s Association conference in Tempe, Ariz. I’ve heard it has gotten up to 118 degrees out there this season!

I’m looking forward to it regardless and I’m already looking toward doing better at next year’s awards!

As editor, I am also looking forward to meeting and speaking with more of our readers and citizens. Feel free to contact me with any leads, questions or concerns at: 918-732-7697 or scosp@mcn-nsn.gov.

***'As I look back on a misspent life, I find myself more and more convinced that I had more fun doing news reporting than in any other enterprise. It is really the life of kings.'***  
**- H.L. Mencken**



## Tribal journalism challenges discussed on Mvskoke Radio (Part 2)

**Native American journalists examine the state of their craft**

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It’s a question debated for years among Native American journalists: Is there freedom of the press when tribal governments own the press?

The issue was discussed on Mvkoke Radio June 19 with hosts Gary Fife and Gerald Wofford and two independent Native journalists, Paul DeMain, long-time publisher and newscaster at News From Indian Country and Lisa Snell, publisher of the Native American Times.

DeMain pointed out that changes have occurred for Native journalists but he felt they must still protect their own interests by examining hiring contracts and make sure tribal governing bodies are aware that they should deal with negative issues in an open and unrestricted manner.

In his experience he remembers many tribal leaders and governments getting rid of editors they did not like and replacing them with employees who functioned in more of a public relations fashion.

DeMain was adamant in saying that today’s Native reporters must maintain a professional attitude and some aggressiveness in pursuing a story that may portray a tribe in an unfavorable light.

“If we seek the truth, we will seek the truth despite death threats, we will seek the truth despite the fact that we may lose our jobs and there are very few jobs in some of these communities. We may be shifted out, we may be defunded. But it’s the ethics, if people are willing to stand by them, will, in the long run, redeem them in the community.”

Wofford raised the question about trends for tribes to appear in a positive light and to circumvent unpleasant issues.

Snell said that the positive image spin was happening already, citing recent TV ad campaigns by several tribes.

“You can see that on television every night, ‘Look at us, we’re the Chickasaw Nation. We’re good Chickasaw patriots.’ We’ve got the Creek Nation — ‘we’re good neighbors; we’re proud and we’re here to help the economy.’ That’s the message that tribes want to send out, especially here in Oklahoma. So many of us are tribal citizens and there’s always an ongoing dispute especially now with the current state government over water rights, tobacco compacts and burn bans.”

“Tribes are wanting the general population to know that ‘we’re good partners; we provide jobs.’ They don’t want that underside to be exposed where there’s tribal corruption, nepotism. There’s favoritism, there’s contracts given out to relatives, things like that going on. It’s the same thing we see in traditional white government that we’re looking at on the federal level.”

“The tribes have gotten really savvy with at having P.R. (public relations) people in place.”

A question about how tribes should address unpleasant issues and their effect on tribal citizens was raised by Fife.

DeMain felt tribes should always deal with these problems in a forthright manner.

“I’ve always tried to encourage tribes to deal with those internal crises straightforward. If there’s an investigation, there’s an investigation. It doesn’t say, look at

all that tribal corruption going on all the time. You find the corruption in government everywhere. I think, if we can model ourselves to say that we don’t want these secrets. Inherently, the Native community seems to think it needs to keep everything secret in part because, I think, it comes out of some of historic dealings. ‘Don’t talk to the government agent; don’t let them know about this; they’ll take it away; they’ll take the kids away to boarding schools; don’t let them undermine the community with this information.’“

So, there’s an inherent distrust for a lot of institutions. But burying those things have made the Indian community, from a personal point of view, ill, by not being open to dealing with issues in our community from sexual assault to family abuse and those kinds of things, all the way up into tribal government. People who are good people can do what they need to do in tribal government to guide the tribe, but are not PR savvy whatsoever.”

“When the newsperson shows up, they want to clam up. They don’t want to make statements. They want someone to be choreographed to say what they say what they need to do. That’s controlling what’s being said and the spin and the message is beneficial to a certain extent until the image is destroyed by the real deep down, which eventually emerges.”

Wofford interjected a question about the impact of today’s social media outlets on the flow of information.

Snell said, those Internet connections had changed everything.

“Keeping an eye on Facebook and Twitter, that’s a wonderful source of news tips and things to follow up on to see just what is going on out there. It’s really a way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of what people want to know, what they’re interested in and what makes them pick up that newspaper every week.”

The social media still can be a gossip column or rumor mill according to Fife, who asked whether these cyber exchanges were becoming more trusted than the regular media.

DeMain said, he includes them in his work, but with limits.

“We use Facebook, more as a tool. That’s had to be worked on. I had to learn certain parameters and certain ways to respond to things. As everyone knows, with Facebook, when someone gets mad they put something out. You put something; you get a phone call and come to find out that it isn’t true. It’s a tool that’s got to be utilized carefully within the business arena. It provides a wonderful opportunity for information to move about the community in a way that was not possible before.”

Snell echoed those sentiments.

“On using Facebook, the adage of ‘where there’s smoke there’s fire’ and that it’s our job to pick through to find the actual embers. There’s gossip; there’s general mean-spiritness that we have to sort through. But the good thing about using the social media is we can come up with names that we may have a hard time finding if we’re covering something at the other end of the state, out of our area where we don’t know the people.”

Native journalists should be a trusted element of any tribal communications effort, Fife felt, but the numbers were very small.

Snell confirmed that fact, adding that the pay scale was a factor in whether or not someone would look to the profession.

“Well, I wish there were more of us out there to hire. To begin with, I think it’s hard because journalists aren’t known for being wealthy and we can all relate to that. It’s unfortunate that it’s really hard to find qualified Indian journalists.”

DeMain agreed noting that more prospective Indian journalists have to be developed but he felt somewhat discouraged.

“We need to incubate people who are interested in being the messengers. As a journalist, not making a whole lot of money, it always been kind of an envious thing where you look up there and say, ‘Geez, I’ve been studying this stuff for years. Wouldn’t it be easier to just become a politician and be paid about four or five times more than what I’m earning now?’”

The subject of the quality of today’s Native journalists was examined next.

All participants agreed that Native reporters have had the benefit of experience and training to become more professional at their craft.

DeMain felt there was an increase in the numbers and talent, despite an overall loss of many tribal publications.

“I think we’re better trained and more professional than ever before. There are more of us. There’s been a real climb and then a demise of tribal publications through all this, but I think the people that get together are more professional than ever before. We do have Native Americans that are integrated into AP (Associated Press), the New York Times and other places, but there are fewer jobs there.”

“Twenty-five years ago, it seemed like everything I saw was coming from non-native perspectives with non-native reporters. I see a lot more richness, a lot more content that’s more sensitive than ever before. So, I think we continue to progress. We continue to hold those other mediums responsible for accurate reporting. All those things become part of our job as journalists. I need to call up AP and holler at them once in a while.”

Snell said Native journalism is better but still faces challenges.

“The challenge of it is, we are definitely a minority in mainstream media and the focus of mainstream media is not on Native America. The Associated Press has only a handful of reporters covering Native tribes and Native issues.”

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger has spoken in favor of freedom of the press legislation since assuming office, but to date, such a proposal has not been put forward. During a Mvskoke Radio call-in program Jan. 16 in which he was the guest, he reconfirmed his support for the idea.

“I would feel comfortable in saying that you will. Again, it’s one of those situations where I’m an advocate for it, because that’s my background as well. I think that the tribal resources that we have in communications should be given the opportunity to tell all sides. Freedom of the press is very important to me. We’re looking at a ‘free press act’ that we want to propose to the National Council for consideration, so I think that’s something we’ll probably see this year. Again, we have looked at other tribes that have this and it’s a matter of refining it so everybody can feel comfortable with it,” Tiger said.

## ‘Baby Veronica’ legal implications



MNN/Gary Fife  
Chrissi Nimmo, Cherokee Nation Assistant Attorney General

### Cherokee Nation Assistant AG speaks on ICWA case

Gary Fife/ MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The South Carolina Supreme Court ruled July 17 that the daughter of a Cherokee man must go with a non-Native couple (the Capobianco family), instead of back to her biological father, in spite of provisions in the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Known as the ‘Baby Veronica’ case, the legal fight went all the way up the judicial ladder to the U.S. Supreme Court. On June 25, the Supreme Court then returned the case to the state court for final judgment on who gets custody.

In the morning, on the same day of that ruling, Mvskoke Radio (MR) aired an interview with Cherokee Nation Assistant Attorney General, Chrissi Nimmo about the case.

**MR:** Has the Indian Child Welfare Act been hurt?

**Nimmo:** I think it’s definitely been narrowed. The opposition in this case was urging that the court (U.S. Supreme Court) find the ICWA unconstitutional. That’s not what the court did. The court took a very narrow view, a statutory construction interpretation of this case. What the court held was that, under their findings, because Dustin Brown had abandoned the child pre-birth and never had physical or legal custody of the child that he was not entitled to the heightened protection under two provisions of the ICWA that relate to termination of parental rights.

They also found in a very novel ruling, that the placement preferences of the ICWA did not apply in this case because no party other than the adoptive couple had formally petitioned to adopt Veronica. That was a very new holding. No other court had decided that and it’s not actually an argument that was made below in this case. It was a footnote in the brief of the adoptive couple saying, ‘Well, you don’t have to worry about placement preferences because no one else sought adoption. I would say, that probably the most detrimental ruling that came out of this case.

What that means, is that in future cases, if there is a family member or tribal member who is willing to take placement of this child, they can’t just say ‘I’m willing to take this child.’ They’re going to have to actually go into court and file something to say that they want placement. That’s not been the practice in ICWA cases in the past.

**MR:** The latest information we’ve seen, essentially the father trying to adopt his own daughter. Can you bring us up-to-date on the case?

**Nimmo:** There were documents filed by Dustin Brown and his wife, Racheal, filed in Nowata County in Oklahoma. There were also documents filed in Cherokee Nation District Court by the grandparents.

Both Cherokee Nation and Dustin Brown understood those filings to be confidential because they are juvenile matters but it’s obviously made it to the media that these filings have been made. I saw quotes of the filings in the South Carolina Post and Courier, so my assumption is that the adoptive couple has shared these filings with the press.

We are not commenting on the contents of the documents. We still believe them to be confidential juvenile matters. But, because it’s already been confirmed that they’ve been filed, I can talk a little bit about them.

The dissenting opinion by Justice (Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor) Sotomayor said that the majority opinion did not and could not disclose the possibility of other family or other tribal member seeking to adopt Veronica when this case is remanded.

Although, I don’t represent Dustin Brown, his wife or his parents, I can conclude that they were following basically the road map that was laid out in the dissent on other possibilities of placement for this child. If Dustin’s rights are terminated, it’s our position, I believe it’s Dustin’s position as well that, before anyone can adopt this child, whether it be the adoptive couple or the grandparents, that Dustin’s rights have to be terminated and they have not been terminated.

Dustin Brown filed and Cherokee Nation joined a pleading asking the South Carolina Supreme Court to send this case back to the Family Court in South Carolina for a determination of jurisdiction and whether or not Dustin’s rights could be terminated. Even if Dustin’s rights could be terminated, what would be in Veronica’s best interest?

It’s our position that, at this point in time, having resided with her father and stepmother, surrounded by her family in Oklahoma for the last 18 months, that it’s absolutely in her best interest to continue to live with her father.

(Editors Note: Later that same day, the South Carolina court decided in favor of the Capobiancos and ordered the return of Veronica to South Carolina. News reports on July 22 indicate that several national Native American groups including the National Congress of American Indians and the Native American Rights Fund are planning to file a civil rights case on behalf of Veronica and her father Dustin Brown.)



## Hanna awaits annual Watermelon Festival



Summer Youth/Evan Tansey  
A sign in Hanna, Okla., announces the community's upcoming watermelon festival Aug. 9-10.

### Community prepares to celebrate with friends, family and watermelon

Evan Tansey/Summer Youth

HANNA, Okla. – Residents of Hanna will gather Aug. 9-10 to enjoy the community's annual Watermelon Festival.

"It is a real neat deal to have this happening," said Festival coordinator, Tamra Davis. "It is a lot of fun for the family, it is something we can do that is close to home."

Watermelons are a common crop grown by farmers in the community, which has not held a festival for the produce in a few years. This year's event coordinators wanted to bring the festival back.

"This year we have been planning it for about six weeks," said Davis. "Everyone has done a good job about taking charge of each event and taking care of it. Our community pulled together this year."

There are many events and activities scheduled for the festival, which will begin Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. with gospel singing.

There will be a day full of events Aug. 10 including: a free pancake breakfast at First Baptist church from 7-9 a.m.,

a kiddie parade at 10 a.m. with games to follow at 11 a.m. and free watermelon will be provided at 7 p.m., by Jaylon Cox with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Hanna Farms.

An outdoor family movie is scheduled at 8 p.m. and a street dance will be held from 9 p.m. - 12 a.m. featuring Dale Moser and the Blackhorse Band.

A series of tournaments will take place Aug. 10, including a pool and horseshoe tournament at 4 p.m. and a 3-on-3-basketball tournament at 9 a.m.

The festival will also feature a farmers market where vendors are welcome.

Hana resident Amberly Proctor is pleased with the return of the festival.

"I remember attending the festival when I was younger," Proctor said. "I am very excited that it is coming back. Hopefully there will be a huge turnout."

Community member Darrell Proctor II was also pleased.

"I was not able to attend the festival when they first had it, so I am glad they brought it back," he says.

Davis shared a goal regarding the festival.

"I hope it is a success and that it continues to grow."

## Community carries on tradition through dance



Summer Youth/Christian Good Voice  
Dancers practice stompdancing during a class hosted by George Coser July 10 at the Glenpool Indian Community Building.

### Coser teaches stompdance at GIC

Christian Good Voice / Summer Youth

GLENPOOL, Okla. – Have you ever heard the old saying practice makes perfect? The Glenpool Indian Community get together every Wednesday to preserve its Muscogee (Creek) culture, by having a Stompdance practice at the Glenpool Indian community center.

Hosted by George Coser, this has been going on since September 2012. When it first started last year there were only four or five people that would show up. After word got out about the practice 15 or 20 people would show up to try and learn what stompdancing is all about.

While practicing, the air is turned off to help get people used to the heat, which is what dancers are used to at the real dances. Everybody who attended the practice would have to get used to the heat, stompdances during the summer heat can be brutal.

The practice itself is fun

and enjoyable, if you don't know how to lead or you mess up nobody will criticize you. Anyone there would probably try and help you in some form or fashion.

Coser said the main goal of the practice is for leading and shaking shells.

"A lot of young people get out and try to learn," Coser said. "That's why we do this, so they can practice leading and shell-shaking. When you go to this practice you will learn something whether it's leading or just how to dance. Younger people might not want to go to a practice because they might mess up and get embarrassed."

He said practice will only help you get better and Glenpool is the only community that does this.

Coser said practice is needed so young teenagers will learn the culture.

"We are the only ones that do this," Coser said. "I don't like seeing young people try to act like a gangster. Practice is needed, they need to learn. Other people want our culture, we have it and need to preserve it."

Coser is the first and last person in the building every practice. The practice starts at 6:30 p.m. and when an artificial wooden log is placed in the middle to represent

the real fire. Coser then picks the leader that will sing a song while the rest of the people dance with him. After each song he picks a different leader, this goes on for about two hours and thirty minutes. Anybody that shows up can jump in at the end of the dance that is going on. This practice can be really useful if anyone would like to learn the culture or why the community does it.

Glenpool resident and citizen Tricia Alexander said she comes to help people learn.

"I come to help people that might have questions and help them learn if they want to try it," she said. "This practice means a lot to the people in the Glenpool community; some do it for fun others, do it to perfect the art. Our culture is important and we need to keep it going if we don't who will? It's up to us to keep it going, that's why these practices are important."

Alexander also said it was fun and that they need to pass it on.

"It's fun and I think it's something we should pass on from generation to generation."

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Rollin' RIVER



# Movie Review - “The Lone Ranger”

By: Gerald Wofford

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The plot of the long awaited and much-hyped Disney portrayal of “The Lone Ranger” classic was similar to the many moving trains seen in the motion picture; it kind of came and went without really understanding where it came from and where it was going. Much of Native American country was in anticipation of the movie based on the 1940’s and 50’s television program of the same name, which featured Jay Silverheels as the faithful sidekick ‘Tonto.’ The hope was that the rebooted character portrayed by Johnny Depp would present a more sophisticated and dignified Native American western hero. Feelings have been mixed.

Kevin Gover, Director of the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian described Tonto’s portrayal as “just weird.” Native filmmaker Chris Eyre also commented on the portrayal. “I don’t know if I can be offended by a character that is not representative of Native Americans. It’s Hollywood’s invention of a Native American. It’s a farce and his character is a farce character.” Others such as LaDonna Harris who was instrumental in getting Depp adopted into the Comanche Tribe said the movie “reminds studios in New Mexico to not only hire Hispanics but Indian actors as extras, actors and all throughout the industry.” The movie is considered a box-office flop. According to the Hollywood Reporter, The western, which cost \$252 million to create and another \$170 million to market, brought in \$48.9 million in five days since the July 3 debut. “The Lone Ranger” television series ran from 1949-1957 but never disclosed Tonto’s tribal lineage. Tonto is Comanche in Depp’s rendition of the character. According to Depp, special care was taken to present and respect Native Americans and prop-



erly represent the Comanche in the 1869 period in which the movie is set. He even secured a Navajo blessing on the production and a Comanche advisor named Fonseca, who approved of the controversial dead crow head adornment worn by his character. Another positive factor was the tickets sold at the movie’s premiere in Hollywood went to benefit the American Indian College Fund. The movie begins with a young white boy visiting a museum and coming upon a display holding the elder Tonto inside with a plaque on the outside referring to Tonto as “The Noble Savage.” This part of the film, which appears to be some type of homage to the 1970 movie “Little Big Man,” falls flat, breaking the momentum of the movie. Depp could have furthered the authenticity of his role by allowing Tonto to simply speak the common English of the day. He was successful in presenting Tonto as more knowledgeable than the Lone Ranger, however the stereotypical broken English Tonto speaks has become the Hollywood standard in so many Native films and doesn’t help Depp’s attempt to make Tonto his own man. Not all criticism goes to Depp. Armie Hammer who played the Lone Ranger is horrible. Hammer plays John Reid who is returning to his hometown of Colby, Texas from the east coast where he has earned a law degree and plans to introduce proper justice and criminal law to the folks back home. His boy scout mentality towards the rugged west of 1869 meets with catastrophic results as Reid sees his brother, a Texas Ranger, brutally killed by Outlaw Butch Cavendish, played by William Fichtner. As Tonto saves Reid after an ambush by Cavendish’s men,

Tonto tells him that he is a ‘Spirit Rider’ and cannot die. Justice must now come another way, through a mask. Beginning to accept his disguised fate, it’s difficult to understand the real motivation of Reid evolving into the Lone Ranger. Often looking more like a confused Boy Scout attempting to earn the rank of Eagle Scout as opposed to the hard-core justice mentality of the Lone Ranger in which actors Clayton Moore and John Hart played so well in the television series. The romantic diversion in the Lone Ranger’s life is also too strange, as he has to define his feelings for his fallen brother’s wife. No genuine camaraderie ever develops between the Lone Ranger and Tonto. The dangerous situations throughout the movie only present an ‘every man for himself’ mentality. Even the final scene, which presents an elder Tonto walking away in the desert, just doesn’t sell. Although the movie was set in Texas the film was actually shot in Utah Arizona and New Mexico. Historical timelines are also jumbled somewhat when the posse discusses the extent of the antagonist’s evil. The Ranger mentions that Oklahoma didn’t have a long enough rope to hang him. The name Oklahoma In 1869 was not the name of this portion of the country when the Five Civilized Tribes were adapting to their new lives in Indian Territory. Some bright spots were the portrayal of Cavendish by Fichtner and Helena Bonham Carter as the one-legged prostitute with a weapon to wallop. With all its inept timing, horrible character development and historical inaccuracies we’re giving “The Lone Ranger” a one and a half out of five possible fry-breads. “The Lone Ranger” is rated PG-13, for the listing of this and other films at Riverwalk Movies or the Admiral Twin Drive-In, visit the website at [www.select-cinemas.com](http://www.select-cinemas.com).

# Creek athlete’s team joins Arizona Hall of Fame



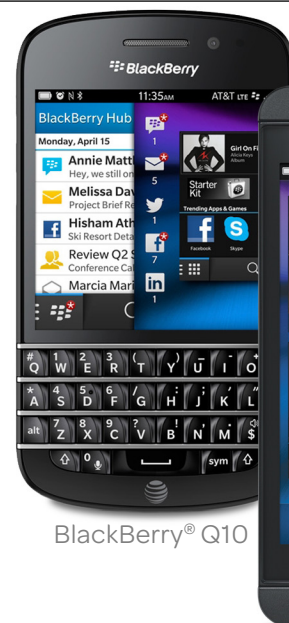
Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberts  
Ella Calanie Barnett helped her team, the Sun Lakes Swingers earn an induction into the Arizona Softball Hall of Fame.

## Age doesn’t stop Calanie Barnett

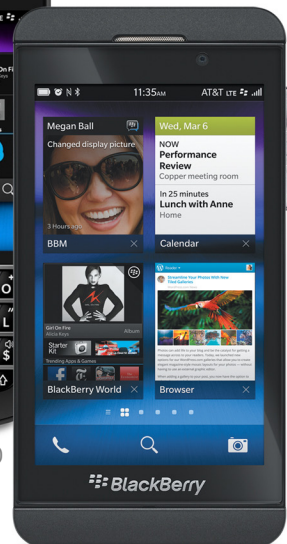
Gerald Wofford/Contributor

MESA, Ariz. – For Ella Calanie Barnett, the induction of her softball team into the Arizona Softball of Fame means all the years she dedicated to the sport have paid off. Calanie who is 64-years-old, has never lost the desire to compete. At the age of 9, Calanie’s uncles Bill and Jackson Barnett began teaching her softball and the art of fast pitching. She enjoyed competing throughout her school years in Avondale, Ariz. Calanie found the softball world of open tournaments and independent leagues to be a nice forum to display her athletic ability, which became known and in demand as she got older. She has played for teams such as: the Arizona Sunsets, Tucson Rancherettes, California Spirits, a Seminole Team from Miccosukee, Fla., the All Indian Senior Women's team at the National Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh and the National Senior Olympics team in Canada. When the Olympics were over, Calanie was selected on an American team that defeated a Canadian all-star team. Calanie also enjoyed basketball, playing with teams along the west coast in places such as San Diego, Calif., Santa Fe, N.M., Las Vegas, Phoenix and the Huntsmen Games in St. George, Utah. Calanie has taught for 17

years. Currently, she is a schoolteacher at the Gila River Indian Community. Calanie won the 2010 Senior Softball World Championship Games in Phoenix with her team, the Queen Bees in the women’s group, age 65 and over. In the May 1, 2012 issue of the ‘Muscogee Nation News,’ Queen Bees team manager Shirley Bowde described how important Calanie is to the team. “She is a great asset to our team, Calanie made some awesome game saving catches in the left center field and batted a .470 average for the tourney. Consequently, Calanie was chosen as one of the tournament all-stars,” said Bowde. In December 1996 she met the Sun Lake Swingers, an age 50 and over women’s team who played during January and February. Calanie played pitcher, shortstop and third base for the Swingers. She was the only Native American player in her league, with a .600-.650 batting average. While other team members had a .500 average. Due to a record season in 2008, the Sun Lakes Swingers were inducted into the Arizona Softball Hall of Fame in May of this year. Calanie is grateful for the induction. My most memorable softball accomplishment is the many ladies that I have met and the friendships that I have made from California to Pennsylvania, including Hawaii and Winnepeg, Canada,” she said.



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# MUSCOGEE VETERAN AND CIVILIAN MOTORCYCLE RIDERS



## 20th Annual Trail Of Tears Motorcycle Ride Monday 23 Sep 13 at 1200

**Riders will assemble at the  
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- Muscogee and non Muscogee civilians are welcomed
- 50 total motorcycles only - First 50 to sign up go
- Riders are allowed to bring one passenger
- There will be no trace cars allowed
- Ride will be from Okmulgee to Checotah and back
- Riders report at 1130 - Formation at 1200 sharp
- Ride will take place regardless of weather
- Active duty Marine Corps Drill Instructors will be commanding the formations for the day  
(Participants please follow strict adherence and respect for military personnel & protocol)
- Chow will be served at 1600 at VASO
- Registration cut off is Monday, 2 Sep 2013 at 1200
- When calling to register please give name(s) and t-shirt size(s) for FREE custom event t-shirt

**Those intersted in participating in this event please contact:**

**KEN DAVIS at 918-732-7739**

**(Please remember the first 50 to register will go on the motorcycle ride)**





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WETUMPKA HEAD START ACCEPTING APPLICATI-ONS

WETUMPKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Wetumpka Head Start Program is accepting applications for the 2013-2014 school years.

The facility is located at 333 S. Washita, Wetumpka, OK and the hours of operation are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. For more information call: 405-452-1180.

CULLY/LOWE REUNION SET FOR AUG. 1 O

KONAWA, Okla. — A Cully/Lowe family reunion is scheduled Aug. 10 at Konawa Park.

Family members are to bring food items for hamburgers, hot-dogs and hot links by 10 a.m. for lunch to be served at 12 p.m.

Family members are also to bring a prize for bingo.

For more information contact Sheila Scott at: 405-452-3262.

MCN BAR ASSOCIA-TION ELECTION SET FOR AUG. 1 5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Bar Association is holding officer elections for 2013-2014, Aug. 15 at 6 p.m. in the MCN Mound Building auditorium.

Nominations will be taken from the general membership at the meeting Aug 15 for: president, vice president and secretary/treasurer.

Members must be in good standing and physically present to vote. Proxy voting will not be accepted. Officers elected that evening will serve from Aug. 18, 2013 - Aug. 18, 2014.

For more information call: 918-758-1439 or email cdearman@mcnsupremecourt.com.

MCN DOH DIABETES AWARENESS SUMMIT SET FOR AUG. 2 9

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health will host the 7th annual Diabetes Citizens' Summit Aug. 29 at the Muskogee Civic Center located at 425 Boston, Muskogee, OK 74402 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information call Taylor Thompson at: 918-807-1561.

CHALAKEE-BERRYHILL REUNION SET FOR AUG. 3 1

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — A Chalakee-Berryhill family reunion is set for Aug. 31 at Springtown United Methodist Church.

For more information contact Josephine Deer at: 405-632-2006.

MCN helps Recruit New Industry to Okmulgee

Generating new employment opportunities for Muscogee Citizens

Media Release

Okmulgee, Okla. – Principal Chief George Tiger announced plans for the trucking company, B&T Express Inc. to place a hub in the Okmulgee area.

“We have been helping the Okmulgee Area Development Corporation recruit this new employer to the Okmulgee area. We believe that a number of our citizens living in the rural areas would welcome the opportunity to be employed in this industry so we recommended B&T Express Inc. to consider our workforce when making a location decision,” stated Tiger.

B&T’s planned future calls for a growth in their operations by increasing their fleet line, independent contractors and terminal operations, and expanding their prime operating area. Representatives of B&T say that this move will create employment opportunities for owner/operators, experience drivers, internships, skilled office workers such as sales personnel, billing clerks and dispatchers. As business increases more personnel will be hired, but presently B&T will be hiring three office staff, two to three sales personnel, a dispatcher and drivers.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will utilize the Employment and Training Program to encourage students to link

with the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Green Country Technology Center and other area schools to be trained as diesel technicians, trailer maintenance and truck drivers.

A long-haul truck driver must have a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) and drivers who transport hazardous materials (HAZMAT), a hazardous materials endorsement (H).

Employment for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers is projected to grow 21 percent from 2010 to 2020, this percentage is higher than average for all occupations. As the economy grows, the demand for goods will increase, thus more truck drivers will be needed to keep supply chains moving. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers held about 1.6 million jobs in 2010. Experienced Drivers can earn up to \$40,000 to \$70,000 a year.

Nevyle Cable, Chairman of the Board, Okmulgee Area Development Corporation states this initiative represents an excellent collaborative effort between the MCN and OADC to work toward the creation of good paying jobs in the greater Okmulgee area.

B&T Express Inc. has a fleet line of 300 trucks, with its roots back to a flatbed carrier and historic operating authority dating back to 1927. In 1984 B&T Express was born with a philosophy very close to that of the MCN, utilizing company owned equipment to service their customers. If growth continues, as in their Alabama Division, hopefully within two years B&T may have over 30 drivers in Okmulgee. John O’Malley stated, “It is our hope that the partnership between B&E Express Inc. and the Muscogee Nation be successful.”

The Company now serves the major steel producers and processors in an expanding territory, which will include Okmulgee. The Company is authorized to operate within the continental 48 states and Ontario Canada.

For more information contact John O’Malley with B&T Express Inc. at: 918-729-7028, jomalley@btxpinc.com, PO Box 1388, Glenpool, OK 74033.

CREEK NATION Financial Report by Funding Source For the Period Ending June 30, 2013			
	Budgets	Encumbered	Expended
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	1,929,766.24	0.00	0.00
ALCOHOL/DRUG PREVENTION	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIQUOR/BEVERAGE	0.00	0.00	0.00
GAMING RESERVE	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRIBAL TRADE & COMMERCE	0.00	0.00	0.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND	6,735,845.49	94,309.47	3,865,251.24
ANGEL TREE	0.00	0.00	1,738.73
LITIGATION & LOBBYING	0.00	0.00	13,009.94
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	1,821,900.84	2,026.23	281,242.56
COMMUNICATIONS REVOLVING	89,948.00	2,164.68	41,695.62
GAMING REVOLVING	1,504,314.00	111,806.40	237,189.27
CN FESTIVAL	794,064.94	41,591.14	667,384.23
MCN GAMING	53,913,747.36	1,101,938.25	31,571,421.08
SPECIAL AUDIT CONTROLLER	227,718.49	0.00	0.00
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	116,885.00	5,090.24	74,421.92
MCN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE	34,151.15	7,502.58	21,721.93
ECONOMIC DEV COMMITTEE	495,000.00	0.00	92,655.34
DEBT RETIREMENT FUND	0.00	0.00	278,000.00
TRIBAL BUDGET	354,546.00	0.00	235,440.77
MOTOR VEHICLE	1,895,347.00	6,506.86	1,288,850.64
LIGHTHORSE	8,595.00	0.00	-55.74
LIGHTHORSE FORFEIT/SEIZURE	11,356.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>69,933,185.51</b>	<b>1,381,531.85</b>	<b>38,725,057.97</b>
<b>HOUSING AND URBAN DEV</b>			
COLLEGE STUDENT HOUSING	24,844.50	0.00	0.00
NAHASDA 11	23,377,281.86	3,081,356.54	14,099,048.09
STUDENT CENTER LIBRARY	800,000.00	0.00	0.00
STUDENT AUXILIARY BLDG	800,000.00	0.00	0.00
RURAL HOUSING & ECO DEV	211,370.89	44,646.34	116,350.90
<b>TOTAL HOUSING AND URBAN DEV</b>	<b>25,213,497.25</b>	<b>3,126,002.88</b>	<b>14,215,398.99</b>
<b>DEPT OF HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SVC</b>			
TANF	1,588,842.09	0.00	0.00
TANF	1,427,389.38	3,254.15	88,796.36
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY 11	74,284.17	0.00	74,405.01
CCDBG MANDATORY 11	1,109,602.18	0.00	880,281.16
NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE	5,607.80	0.00	5,607.80
LIHEAP 12	138,820.83	0.00	32,724.61

	Budgets	Encumbered	Expended
TANF 12	1,623,081.63	4,790.79	646,196.60
FAMILY PRESERVATION 12	414,678.00	23,044.64	265,051.80
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY 12	404,536.08	674.01	263,009.94
CCDBG MANDATORY 12	2,107,434.86	19,878.18	323,841.20
HEAD START 12	538,606.47	0.00	538,606.47
TITLE IV B 12	234,371.00	0.00	138,981.62
FAMILY VIOLENCE 12	931,093.00	89,123.44	266,233.99
AOA ENP 12	88,148.58	32.66	68,633.55
AOA NSIP 12	147,442.00	0.00	121,494.78
LIHEAP 13	328,319.00	4,158.69	227,614.94
TANF 13	1,760,167.00	3,165.77	48,451.76
CHILD SUPPORT 13	1,384,582.00	80,289.09	1,081,241.08
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY 13	1,519,760.00	3,712.85	890,974.62
CCDBG MANDATORY 13	2,522,155.00	35,836.05	354,289.42
HEAD START 13	1,798,356.00	65,551.03	1,146,336.74
AOA ENP 13	81,090.00	0.00	17,165.96
AOA NSIP 13	141,246.00	0.00	0.00
TANF	104,924.41	0.00	104,924.41
TANF	1,674,169.13	0.00	240,863.95
<b>TOTAL DEPT OF HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SVC</b>	<b>22,148,706.61</b>	<b>333,511.23</b>	<b>7,825,347.77</b>
<b>DEPT OF AGRICULTURE</b>			
BREAST PEER COUNSELOR 12	51,354.00	0.00	24,055.62
FOOD DISTRIBUTION 13	787,988.00	11,945.90	476,956.25
WOMENS INFANTS & CHILDREN 13	2,639,424.00	130,667.04	1,590,983.83
<b>TOTAL DEPT OF AGRICULTURE</b>	<b>3,478,766.00</b>	<b>142,612.94</b>	<b>2,091,995.70</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME</b>			
PROCEEDS OF SALE	2,554,000.13	111,671.51	575,555.91
DISTRICT COURT	60,000.00	0.00	6,727.02
POST GRADUATE EDUCATION	113,000.00	0.00	3,936.81
NCAI	2,500.00	0.00	2,249.03
WIC PROGRAM INCOME	0.00	0.00	347,560.19
DEA	5,917.00	0.00	0.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	6,500.00	1,309.52	4,995.51
HOUSING PROGRAM INCOME	987,290.22	18,279.21	954,002.34
HA EMERGENCY REHAB	893,806.42	151,988.76	29,090.51
MCN CHILD DEVELOP. CENTER	1,632,430.00	1,000.00	497,632.75
TRANSIT	26,161.00	0.00	1,445.52
EUF DORM USDA REIMBURSEMENT	20,000.00	0.00	0.00

	Budgets	Encumbered	Expended
CHILD CARE USDA REIMBURSE	63,273.00	16,698.83	36,228.24
HEAD START USDA REIMBURSEMENT	240,778.00	30,731.69	97,770.08
EUFULA DORM ACTIVITY FUND	89,000.00	12,805.30	39,340.33
ELECTION BOARD	1,647.00	0.00	0.00
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	35,000.00	525.36	32,659.30
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
INDIAN ROADS (IRR)	2,453,298.00	87,454.26	263,449.35
SELF GOVERNANCE	346,718.00	5,583.27	56,586.65
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME</b>	<b>9,536,318.77</b>	<b>438,047.71</b>	<b>2,949,229.54</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>			
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC	1,201.37	0.00	0.00
GREEN INITIATIVE	146,834.83	0.00	145,854.18
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>	<b>148,036.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>145,854.18</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR</b>			
JOM 10	15,685.90	0.00	15,619.97
PL 477	1,530,647.76	3,206.01	384,591.34
EUFULA DORM	83,636.20	5,855.98	54,201.16
JOM EARLY CHILD 11	1,291.23	0.00	0.00
JOM 11	273,381.10	0.00	273,381.10
EUFULA DORM	580,881.49	39,129.74	275,893.88
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	3,351.62	0.00	3,286.85
JOM 12	763,839.00	3,045.00	35,869.73
EUFULA DORM 12	1,605,867.68	9,038.34	631,786.79
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	3,562.00	0.00	0.00
JOM 13	285,981.00	0.00	0.00
SELF GOVERNANCE	33,852,452.08	3,468,034.94	7,490,734.41
ARBEKA ROAD	109,417.36	0.00	0.00
JOM 06	1,411.85	0.00	1,411.85
EUFULA DORM 06	223,716.86	0.00	0.00
EUFULA DORM 08	129,667.78	0.00	0.00
EUFULA DORM 09	254,405.71	5,233.74	21,645.46
KELLYVILLE PROJECT	415,162.49	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR</b>	<b>40,134,359.11</b>	<b>3,533,543.75</b>	<b>9,188,422.54</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>			
DOT TRANSIT PROGRAM	20,181.63	0.00	20,181.63
DOT TRANSIT PROGRAM	227,169.87	0.00	227,169.87
DOT-TRANSIT PROGRAM	350,000.00	0.00	118,122.00

	Budgets	Encumbered	Expended
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>597,351.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>365,473.50</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</b>			
RURAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	340,408.44	13,515.02	211,576.96
METHAMPHETAMINE INITIATIVE	15,756.99	0.00	15,756.99
TRIBAL RESOURCES PROGRAM	185,437.70	22,642.80	10,857.20
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	528,674.13	23,764.48	163,326.28
PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP	165,269.05	5,212.02	88,805.96
CTAS	68,485.69	2,079.13	65,170.69
EXCHANGE NETWORK	126,724.10	2,363.08	32,595.44
SECOND CHANCE ACT	388,362.45	7,990.62	139,373.84
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</b>	<b>1,819,118.55</b>	<b>77,567.15</b>	<b>727,463.36</b>
<b>CAPITAL PROJECT</b>			
STUDENT CENTER LIBRARY	2,000,000.00	58,667.97	139,384.03
STUDENT AUXILIARY BLDG	2,000,000.00	58,667.97	139,384.03
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT</b>	<b>4,000,000.00</b>	<b>117,335.94</b>	<b>278,768.06</b>
<b>ENTERPRISE FUND</b>			
37 ACT	0.00	0.00	25,633.03
FOUNTAINHEAD CREEK GOLF	998,490.00	62,508.22	594,351.43
RIVERWALK CROSSING	3,192,398.56	0.00	1,244,674.98
MUSKOGEE OFFICE BLDG	394,727.00	118,640.65	134,375.50
ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND	0.00	0.00	736.67
IHS OFFICE BUILDING	18,739.00	0.00	2,422.35
TRIBAL AGRICULTURE	307,617.00	18,730.63	161,333.33
HANNA INDIAN COMMUNITY	185,496.00	12,948.53	104,287.16
TOURISM & RECREATION	1,160,534.00	18,051.08	739,985.58
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	500,000.00	109,467.12	238,363.71
<b>TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND</b>	<b>6,758,001.56</b>	<b>340,346.23</b>	<b>3,246,163.74</b>
<b>INTERNAL SERVICE FUND</b>			
ROADS FORCE ACCOUNT	1,497,982.00	163,116.22	513,016.82
NAHASDA FORCE ACCOUNT	1,691,043.00	181,965.44	1,033,239.46
NAHASDA MAINTENANCE	153,585.00	2,862.62	54,668.78
TRIBAL REAL PROP & FACILITY	2,676,983.00	29,158.74	1,569,254.43
FLEET MANAGEMENT	954,803.00	61,380.36	387,576.23
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	2,138,597.00	834,725.04	799,249.15
ADMIN/INDIRECT	7,236,403.00	129,061.05	4,374,624.22
<b>TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE FUND</b>	<b>16,349,396.08</b>	<b>1,402,269.47</b>	<b>12,424,147.48</b>

Budgets	Encumbered	Expended
Amounts presented are Budget vs Actual for the FY 2013, as of June 30, 2013 Budgets and expenditures are presented by Funding Source.		

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT	
IN THE MATTER OF:	) DISTRICT COURT FILED
T.B., DOB: 07-23-97	) Case No. JV-2011-03
B.B., DOB: 09-19-05	) (03 JUL 17 PM 3 34
Alleged Deprived Children.	) MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK
NOTICE OF HEARING TO:	
Reginald Benson, Natural Father of T.B.	
YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 11 <sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013 at 9:00 A.M.	
YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.	
FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.	

DIY WORKSHOPS

AUGUST 13, 2013

“Chalkboard Painting”

5:30-7:00 p.m.

HOUSING BLDG.

Open to all Creek Home Owners

A workshop for kiddoes is also scheduled to instill in them the love of DIY. Children are so creative and when we develop that creativity into a love for DIY projects, these same children will become confident, capable homeowners in the future. The children’s DIY workshop will be “DIY Building Blocks.” They will learn to build and create with items rescued from their environment and their own backyard.

For more information please contact Lora King, Housing Services Specialist, at 918.549.2572 or by email at lking@mcn-nsn.gov. Please register for workshops by phone!

2951 N. Wood Dr., Okmulgee, OK 74447



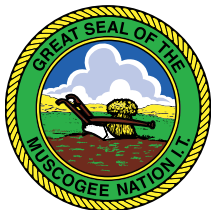


# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## Tiger updates Nation with quarterly report

AUG. 15, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 16  
"HIYORAKKO"  
BIG HARVEST



### Principal chief outlines progress, plans of tribal entities

Sterling Cospers  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave his quarterly report July 27 during a quarterly session of the MCN National Council.

During his report, Tiger gave updates on tribal affairs including: the ground-breaking on the College of Muscogee Nation's new student center, record attendance of an estimated 40,000 during the 39th Mvskoke Nation Festival and the potential development of a new credit card service to expedite funding to the Nation's college students from the MCN Department of Education, Employment and Training.

He mentioned the MCN Department of Justice's recent role in the acquisition of property for the Nation.

"...Specifically in our health division, such as the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center, the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital and property from OSU IT for the expansion of our College of the Muscogee Nation," he said.

The Council passed NCA 13-176 for the expenditure of \$1.51 million to purchase the George Nigh and equipment for the facility later in the session, and



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave his quarterly report July 27 during a quarterly session of the MCN National Council.

it was announced at a later date that a signing ceremony for the purchase would take place Aug. 12 at the University of Oklahoma Office of the President.

The agenda for an emergency session of the Council Aug. 8 contained legislation pertaining to the purchase of the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital.

During his report, Tiger addressed the Nation's use of federal funding.

"Many people feel like the

federal government takes care of us. More and more today, what we do as a tribe is more competitive when going after federal revenue. Because of what we do as a Nation, we have the ability to supplement of our tribal programs."

He noted the importance of spending federal money first.

"In the past, because we weren't able to spend our federal money, we had to turn some money back in. I've mandated to our managers and cabinet members that we use

our federal money first and then look at our tribal money," Tiger said.

Tiger stated that the current tribal enrollment was 76,287 as of July 1, the total registered voters are 16,214 and the market value of the Nation's permanent fund was in excess of \$250 million. He also mentioned the Nation's ongoing effort to pursue grant money.

A document containing the MCN fiscal year third quarter

REPORT - 2

## Motion to remove Alexander as Council speaker fails

### Rep. Dode Barnett moves to remove Sam Alexander as National Council Speaker.

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial/Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A motion to remove Sam Alexander as speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was made July 27 during the Council quarterly session.

Through a motion made by Rep. Dode Barnett after the order of business, the Council amended their policies and procedures 13-4 with Reps. Adam Jones, Eddie LaGrone, Kara Medina and Darrell Proctor voting against it.

Barnett then moved for the removal of Alexander as speaker of the Council, "in pursuant to the changes in policies and procedures," she said. The motion failed 8-9 with Reps. Pete Beaver, Robert Hufft, Keeper Johnson,



MNN/Sterling Cospers

A motion to remove Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Sam Alexander was made July 27 during the Council quarterly session.

Thomas Yahola, David Nichols, Jones, LaGrone, Medina and Proctor voting against it.

According to the Council policies and procedures, the removal of a Council representative as speaker requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Council.

Barnett explained that old policies and procedures affecting Council officers term

of office had been modified. The older policies had only allowed for changes in leadership at the end of annual sessions. The new revision allowed for changes mid-session in Council officers' tenure.

Following that action, Barnett said she made the motion calling for the replacement of Alexander.

"I guess I should make it clear, I speak for me and am in no way, trying to speak for members of the council. I think in many ways, we speak with our votes, so that we don't have to publicly say anything.

"But, I felt that, that position is very crucial in working with other branches of government, being a diplomat to other governments and to our nation as a whole. I felt that it was time for a change. In order for us to hold others accountable, we needed to hold our own body accountable first."

Barnett added that she was concerned that Alexander's salary called for his attendance at many events, activities outside of the council and maintaining office hours.

"General concerns, the speaker of the council actually is a position that is paid at a higher rate than the rest of the

ALEXANDER - 2

### Funding for new facilities addressed during Council session

Sterling Cospers  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held July 27 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 13-090 Authorizing the principal chief to execute agreements between the Oklahoma Health Care Authority for the Nation's health system to receive Medicaid reimbursements. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-091 Authorizing the principal chief to execute local Head Start agreements with, Checotah, Wainwright, Tulsa, Kiefer, Okmulgee, Eufaula, Morris and Midway Public Schools to provide special services to children with disabilities. Rep. Keeper Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-092 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and construction manager as constructor with Red Stone Construction Services LLC. — Manhattan Construction for construction services for the Okemah Hospital Project. Rep. Lena Wind sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-093 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an administrative services agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma for group health plan services. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-094 To define and authorize an oversight committee for Phase II expansion of the Muscogee Casino Project to include the construction of a hotel. Rep. Eddie LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-095 Authorizing the principal chief to execute

COUNCIL - 3





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REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

report from various tribal programs states that the MCN Reintegration Program has submitted three grant applications totaling \$5,539,742 million.

According to the report, the MCN Tribal Employment Rights Office has certified 35 Native owned businesses, 13 of which are Muscogee (Creek) citizen owned.

It detailed recent ventures made by Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises including the purchase of rights for a Rex's Chicken franchise. The first two sites, the document states, will be at the Okmulgee and Muskogee Travel Plazas.

The report also states that MNBE has: obtained conceptual ideas from 1Architecture for construction updates to both plazas, has been working with golf consulting firm NB3 to provide a plan for upgrading the Okmulgee Golf Course and is planning to begin Phase II master planning at Riverwalk within 30 days.

New citizenship cards introduced to improve security

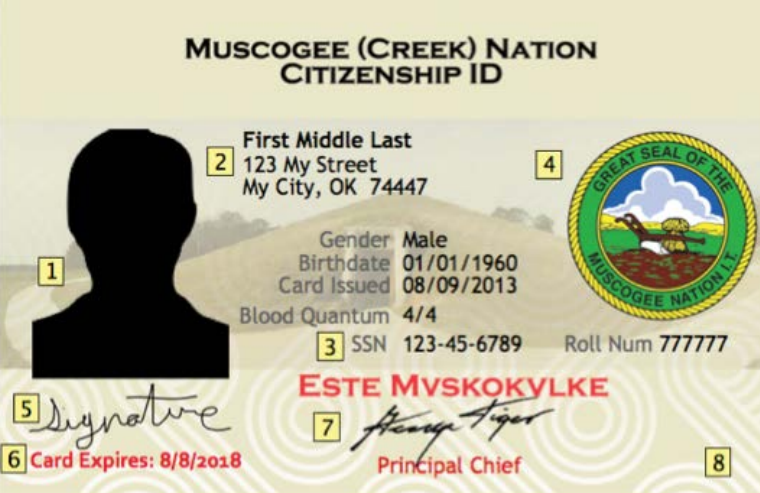
Tiger urges tribal citizens to change to new IDs

MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger urges all MCN citizens to update to the new MCN tribal identification card.

The new card, made available Aug. 12, features a new design pertinent to data and funding.

7. Signature of the current MCN chief
8. Fully colored, high quality background image with holographic MCN seal
1. Tribal clan
2. Tribal town
3. QR code, which can be scanned by authorized personnel to obtain instant tribal enrollment verification using real time data.
4. Disclaimer regarding the card expiration date stating the date does not reflect



Tribal offices frequently utilize reports based on the tribal citizen information housed within the MCN Citizenship Office. These reports are used when looking at current and future programs, notifications, grants and funding, ect. Keeping your information up to date with tribal offices is ex-

the status of your citizenship.

The ID has been redesigned, so that we have updated, secure and official looking identification cards. The existing format is simply outdated and lacks security features to maintain the integrity of the cards.

Citizens will receive their



tremely important and can affect the outcome of tribal initiatives.

When someone uses a fraudulent card or information, it directly affects both the tribal citizen whose information was used illegally and the Nation. The use of fraudulent information typically translates directly to a loss of funds, which in turn can diminish the quality of services for eligible tribal members. In addition, if no steps are ever taken to prevent such fraudulent activity, the reputation of said entity can suffer irreversible damage.

After over a year of research and planning we are happy to present you with the new MCN Citizenship Identification Card. The new cards will ensure informational accuracy and help prevent fraud within the tribe.

The new card will feature (as numbered in sample graphics):

1. A high definition portrait
2. Enrollee's name and address
3. Enrollee's social security number (SSN optional when requesting new card)
4. Official seal of the MCN
5. Digitally captured signature of enrollee
6. Card expiration date – This reflects the date your information and card need to be updated and does not pertain to your status as a citizen.

first new card free of charge.

The replacement cost of \$5 will remain the same for the foreseeable future.

If your card expires, you will need to visit the Citizenship Office to update your photo and information. Citizens from out of state will be able to follow guidelines similar to obtaining a passport when submitting their information.

If you do not know your clan, it will simply be omitted from the card. Your tribal town is matrilineal, so if you are unsure of it, we may be able to locate it for you.

The QR code on the back of the new card can be scanned so that authorized personnel can instantly verify your citizenship status. Citizenship verification is often required when receiving services.

On the front of the card, you will see 'Este Mvskokylke.' This refers to the Muscogee (Creek) people as a whole.

On the back of the card, you will see 'Tvsekvyv Sohceyetyv.' This means citizenship enrollment.

The tribal town and clan on the back of the card will show the Creek word along with the translation.

The card will expire five years from the date of print.

The Citizenship Office is able to visit communities to update citizenship information by request. The office is also working to ease the enrollment and renewal process for non-local citizens.

MCN partners with Tulsa Pow Wow



MNN/Gerald Wofford  
2013-2014 Tulsa Pow Wow Princess Hanna Wensman at the 61st annual Tulsa Pow-Wow July 26-28 in Bixby, Okla.

Event showcases tribal culture

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

BIXBY, Okla. – The 61st annual Tulsa Pow-Wow drew Native American tribes from all over the country. The event was held July 26-28 in Bixby, Okla.

Sponsorship from tribes such as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation made it a possibility.

“We’re thankful that we’re able to reach out and have support such as from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,” said Robert Anquoe of the Tulsa Pow-Wow committee. “They have provided some assistance and manpower through volunteers.”

Edwin Marshall, MCN Public Relations Manager served as co-master of ceremonies

along with Wallace Coffey during the three-day event.

“I was inducted into the Tulsa Indian Club,” Marshall said. “This is a project that the MCN supports as well. We are the primary supporter of the Tulsa Pow-Wow and with it being in our jurisdiction, it was a natural fit.”

“We’ve had several foreign visitors from France, Poland, Canada, and Norway,” Marshall said.

Marshall likes the current home of the powwow but understands that with the naming rights of the Expo Center in Tulsa currently under contract to the tribally-owned River Spirit Casino, the powwow might consider changing locations in the future.

“I can’t speak for the tribe, but anything is possible.”

ALEXANDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Council because they perform additional duties that the rest of the council does not. Oversight of the National Council’s offices and they’re expected to be at other functions that we aren’t necessarily (expected) to be at, so they are paid a higher rate. There has been concerns with his (Alexander’s) attendance in the oversight of the office in general.”

Barnett believes that Alexander should be more available in the Council office.

“Yes, attendance has been an issue as far as the speaker being expected, not only to be at additional meetings, as required, but also basically to be there from eight to five, Monday through Friday unless duties call him away from that, which sometimes, you know, people are on travel status or they have meetings throughout the state that he’s invited to.

“But, other than that, he’s to be there in the office with the employees, just like they are. They’re expected to be there eight o’clock and so is he and they’re expected to stay until five, so is he.”

She declared that there have been complaints that Alexander had not been in the office.

Even though her motion to replace Alexander was defeated, Barnett said there was a partial victory in that policies had been changed to affect future issues.

With MCN National Council elections on the horizon, questions about political motivations and Barnett seeking the speaker position could be raised, but she said it was not the case.

“Me making the motion was not politically inspired. I just felt like it was the right thing to do. I felt like I was moved to do it. I appreciated all my

peers that felt that way as well and voiced their vote in that response. But no, it wasn’t politically motivated as to me vying for his job.”

The Council acts as a body and you know, when the speaker is elected, the whole body elects that speaker so it wasn’t me vying for the speaker position. No, in fact, if the motion had carried I would have probably been the last person having least tenure on the Council to have assumed that position. There are many more that are on the Council that would be much more qualified than I am.”

Barnett concluded that she felt it was expected of a Council member to raise issues that addressed problems.

“I think our job as representatives are to bring up any issues that need to be brought up. My hope would be that it would not be necessary to bring it up again, but if it were necessary to bring it up again I would not be intimidated to do so.”

Alexander has issued a statement regarding the motion to remove him.

“The National Council Speaker expresses regret and apologizes for his part in the recent motion to remove the Speaker at the July 2013 Regular Session. The motion was based upon a communication misunderstanding. Internal issues are best resolved and the Speaker is pleased the legislature has addressed the matter internally. The National Council considers the issued resolved and has moved on.”

Attempts to arrange an interview with Alexander for this story were not successful as of press time. A call from his office was returned after office hours, however attempts to contact him the following day were not successful.



# Native journalists share opinions on issues.

## Tribal reporters address current issues in Indian Country.

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

TEMPE, Ariz.—What do national Native journalists think about some top issues in Native American affairs?

At the Native American Journalists Association National Native Media Conference, July 18-21, four questions on some recent developments were posed to: Mark Trahant, national columnist and Atwood Fellow at the University of Alaska-Anchorage; Tim Giago, columnist and national Native publisher; Rhonda LeValdo, former president of NAJA; and Chuck Trimble, columnist and one of the founders of the now defunct American Indian Press Association.

The Native journalists were asked about: the newly established White House Council on Native Affairs, the ‘Baby Veronica’ Indian child adoption case; the movie, ‘The Lone Ranger,’ and their thoughts on the issues of freedom of the press in Indian country.

On the recent establishment of the new White House Council, the Cabinet-level group set up to address federal Indian issues and topics, most of the journalists favored the idea, but were skeptical of its future impact.

LeValdo said she had high hopes for the new council.

“Hoping that it will be good with the people they have on there. Maybe they’ll bring to light some issues that have to be addressed...I know some people are worried about it...just being a bunch of bureaucrats, but I’m hopeful.”

LeValdo saw problems regarding the decision in the adoption of the Cherokee child, ‘Baby Veronica.’

“I think it sets a dangerous precedent. I don’t understand what they (the South Carolina family court which gave the child back to the adoptive parents) are seeing. The Cherokee Nation obviously are going to stay involved. They’re not giving up. The father obviously wants the child, so I don’t understand why you would take a child away from their parent.”

On the entertainment front, the release of the long-expected movie, “The Lone Ranger” drew massive attention to actor Johnny Depp playing the Indian side-kick, Tonto. Some of the journalists had seen the movie and others hadn’t.

LeValdo favored an Indian actor for the role.

“It would have been nice to see Native person being given the opportunity to have an acting gig like that as opposed to Johnny Depp, but he’s a name. He was supposed to bring in the numbers, but obviously that didn’t happen.”

On the topic of constitutional freedom of the press in Indian country, a major issue for the Native American Journalists Association, LeValdo said the battle is still being fought.

“They can promote a good government within their own people, transparency, within their own members. It can only benefit your community.”

Giago addressed the White House Council topic as something Native America had seen before from the federal gov-

ernment. He felt Native people would have to give the council some time to develop.

“I think like everything new that involves Native Americans, we always have to sit back and watch because so many of the new things they brought that were supposed to cure all of our ills always turn out to be nothing.

On the Baby Veronica decision, Giago said questions remain on both sides of that issue.

“I know that it goes against all the principles of the Indian Child Welfare Act is all about. It could be very damaging. But I think you have to look at each case, individually.”

Giago thought the movie, “The Lone Ranger” was being taken too seriously by many native people.

“I did an editorial in the Native Sun News in which I said, ‘Get over it; it’s only a movie.’ I took my family to it and we enjoyed it immensely. We laughed and we enjoyed it because it was supposed to be done in a lighthearted way and that’s exactly the way it came off to me. It wasn’t something that was going to be an epic that was going to take care of history of mistreatment of all Indians for all of these centuries. It was a lighthearted movie that made fun of “The Lone Ranger.”

As longtime career Native journalist, Giago has long looked at the freedom of the press issue for Native Americans. He said that question has evolved today because of the new forms of communication.

“When I started the old Indian newspaper, Lakota Times we were the only Indian owned independent newspaper in the United States. I think now, with blogs and Twitter and all the other things that are coming into vogue, it’s changing the face of freedom of the press...we still have problems in that tribal governments who own their own newspapers are still very restrictive in what the allow editors to print. We need to educate tribal leaders that the newspaper is your friend. It can do good things for your people and they need to let it have its freedom to do that.”

Trahant complimented the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama for forming the White House Council on Native Affairs. He was pleased with the attention given to Native American affairs but foresaw continued opposition from the U.S. Congress as a challenge to accomplishing anything.

“A cabinet-level agency, in theory, could do great things. The problem with the last several attempts on White House councils (on Indian affairs) is they never got cabinet agencies to participate.

They started sending deputies and pretty soon it became ‘deputies-to-deputies’ and pretty soon it was people who could never make a decision anyway. If they can get folks that can make the decisions it could be an interesting enterprise.”

On the ‘Baby Veronica’ case, Trahant said the conservative point of view prevailed and made the first cracks in the legal wall protecting the Indian Child Welfare Act.

“One of the hallmarks of the Roberts (U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts) court is to be very narrow and to build a record. In that sense, it’s an assault on the Indian Child Welfare Act, but not a major one. It’s just a chipping away. They’ll come back and try to chip away again to make that major assault.

This was a tough one. It does under the ability of tribal courts to undermine the primacy in this really important area.”

Trahant has not taken in the movie, “The Lone Ranger” and is in no rush to see it. He felt the focus on this film has overshadowed other Native media accomplishments.

‘I haven’t seen it. It’s not ‘huge’ on my radar. I’ll probably watch it on cable one of these days. I think for media, this has been an interesting year. There have been some really interesting things that aren’t getting the same attention as Johnny Depp.”

When responding to the question of freedom of the press in Indian country, Trahant said Native media should forge ahead with what it thinks is right and rely on its own ethics.

“I’ve always operated that ‘you just do what you think is right and let the chips fall.’ I think the bigger problem...is self-censorship, of not what you can do in terms of freedom of the press, but being afraid of doing what you can do. There are so many important stories that aren’t even being touched. I think that is where we need to put our focus on regardless of what the law is.”

Chuck Trimble has been an observer of national Native affairs. For him, the new White House Council on Native Affairs has potential but he is skeptical about its effectiveness.

“I think it could be very effective. It brings back the National Council on Indian Opportunity (established under the Richard Nixon administration), which was really heralded as something that Indian people needed. There was quite a bit of excitement, but that just fell to nothing. It got involved in politics of the time and everything else. If it could really define the issues that need to be done and keep those defined issues and not be distracted by too many other things, they might get something done.”

The ‘Baby Veronica’ case, Trimble said, was probably not the best case to test the strength of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

“I think that it was a very poor case mainly because the person who lost the case didn’t seem to represent Indian Country well. I think it gave certain justices (U.S. Supreme Court justices) the excuse they wanted, ‘Well, this guy is not really Indian or something like that.’ It seems to me as a layperson, it put too much at risk, too much of Indian country to be pushed that far. It would have been best to leave it out of the Supreme Court.”

As far as his thoughts on the Lone Ranger movie, Trimble said he’d ignore it.

“I haven’t seen it and I really have no desire to, not that I have any issue with Johnny Depp or anything.”

Trimble has heard battles over Indian freedom of the press discussed for years. For him, it is still an on-going issue.

“The Indian press, in so many instances is so dependent on the tribes. Whether it’s through the casinos or anything else for where the money might come from. Any time you have that situation, you’re going to have that pressure. That they need to agitate the people who are giving them the money, in which case it might be a tyrannical tribal leader. So, I think that’s a sad situation to continues to exist in Indian country.”

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a contract for the purchase of property located in Okfuskee County Oklahoma. Reps. Sam Alexander, Frank Coachman and Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-096 Authorizing the principal chief to submit a Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies Grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Administration of Native Americans to address economic infrastructure needs that will strengthen business development and job creation. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-097 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an asset purchase agreement for the purchase of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center located in Okmulgee County Oklahoma. Reps. Pearl Thomas, Wind and Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-1 with Rep. Kara Medina voting against it.
- TR 13-098 Authorizing the principal chief to negotiate an economic investment opportunity in Eufaula, Okla., known as the Yogi Bear Resort and to procure all necessary agreements and documentation to secure the transaction. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 11-6 with Reps. David Nichols, Pete Beaver, Robert Hufft, Johnson, Hill and Greene voting against it.
- TR 13-099 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Gypsy Public Schools for the purpose of providing Head Start program services to eligible preschool children. Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-100 Authorizing the principal chief to execute local Head Start agreements with Ryal, Holdenville, Dewar, Jenks, Okemah, Wetumpka, Sapulpa and Henryetta Public Schools to provide special services to children with disabilities. Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-101 Authorizing the principal chief to negotiate and execute a commercial/industrial real estate purchase contract for the purchase of property located in Oklahoma County Oklahoma. Reps. Mark Randolph, Darrell Proctor, Shirlene Ade, Hill, Wind, Johnson, Medina, Thomas, Coachman and Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-164 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$5,250 to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0. Yahola was out of the room.
- NCA 13-165 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$750 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-4 with Barnett, Greene, Hufft and Hill voting against it. Yahola was out of the room.
- NCA 13-166 Amending NCA 13-126 (Authorizing a special appropriation to Glenpool Creek Indian Community to assist with operating expenses). Medina and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-167 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$500 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Beaver sponsored the amendment,

which passed 16-1 with Barnett voting against it.

- NCA 13-168 Authorizing a donation of \$2,000 to Weleetka Public Schools. Coachman and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-1 with Medina voting against it.
- NCA 13-169 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,481.85 to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-171 Appropriating \$220,000 to be used toward the purchase of real property located in Okfuskee County Oklahoma. Johnson, Alexander and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-172 Appropriating \$855,250 to construct a new community building for the Okemah Indian Community. Wind, Coachman, Medina and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-173 Appropriating \$855,250 to construct a new community building for the Okfuskee Indian Community. Wind, Coachman, Hill, Medina and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-174 Appropriating \$2.7 million for architectural services related to the construction of a hospital in Okemah, Okla. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-3 with Johnson, Medina and Nichols voting against it.
- NCA 13-175 Amending NCA 13-115 (Authorizing the expenditure of the Office of Public Gaming income). Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-1 with Medina voting against it.
- NCA 13-176 Authorizing the expenditure of \$1.51 million from the MCN Department of Health investment account funds for the purchase of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center and the purchase of Equipment for the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-1 with Medina voting against it.
- NCA 13-177 Appropriating \$359,828.80 to be used to create a dialysis center at the Nation’s Koweta Indian Health Center. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0. Yahola was out of the room.
- NCA 13-179 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$500 to the Native Heat basketball team. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-180 Appropriating \$665,000 for the purchase of real property located in Oklahoma County Oklahoma. Hill, Ade, Coachman, Hufft, Proctor and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-183 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$57,510.50 to the Wilson Indian Community. Wind, Johnson, Medina and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-185 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$7,191.65 to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-8 with Jones, Proctor, Ade, Barnett, Beaver, Greene, Hill and Hufft voting against it.



MCN Housing using new materials

BSA Troop 102 looking for new members



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
A new house being constructed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division using Structural Insulated Panels.

SIPS panels lead to more efficient homes

Darren DeLaune/Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division is implementing a new way of building houses for the tribal citizens.

The Housing Division is now utilizing the Structural Insulated Panel system to build more energy efficient homes. The SIPs have already been used in the construction of the MCN Recycling Center and Elderly Housing Units.

MCN Housing Division Manager Brad Fox explained SIPs and how it helps his division and the citizens.

“SIPs are a five and a half inch piece of foam that is being put into our houses that is helping our homes be more energy efficient...it is quicker for us to put up and the savings go to our Creek citizens,” Fox said.

He elaborated further on the system’s improvement to the completion time of a project.

“With our current project, we are in building this house about two and half weeks,” Fox said. “At first we have a slab here that is the foundation for the house. Within four to five days we have the SIPs panels already installed and with that we are able to put the roof, shingles, doors and windows in the span.”

The SIPs panels have different parts that are ordered throughout the U.S. and shipped to the SIPs plant in Wetumka, Okla. where they are built, stored for use in housing projects.

According to Thomasene Osborn, Development Specialist of the Housing Division in Wetumka, the oriented strand board (OSB) for the panel is ordered from North Carolina and the

adhesive and foam come from Ohio and Texas respectively.

“We assemble it and get it ready for certification and for the units that are being built,” Osborn said.

A key major point that Fox brought up was the turn around time in getting these houses built. SIPs panels have a big help with that. Once they get those in, everything else moves along pretty fast in getting the house built. Housing will no longer utilize conventional stick frame construction.

Fox is pleased with the new process and is making steps to having SIPs be the standard process for his crews.

“The product so far has went so well that we started using it,” Fox said. “It is no longer a test site for us. It was going to be at first but we changed it and we are going to use the panels for our houses. The next few houses are going to be in Henryetta and Holdenville so we are in the stages of building this permanently.”

SIPs can be used for homes with any type of exterior.

With an approved budget of \$13.1 million, the division will construct all houses using SIPs technology next year.

“SIPs will be in our development and alternative housing programs,” Fox said.

The Housing Division does the majority of their work without help from outside contractors.

“Plumbing, heating and air, and utility is all done by us,” Fox said.

MCN citizens interested in applying for a house can contact the Housing Division for more information at: 918-549-2500 or apply at 2951 N. Wood Dr. Okmulgee, OK.

Local Scout troop seeking tribal members

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Boy Scout Troop 102 is looking for new recruits. Troop 102 is based out of Okmulgee and holds their weekly meetings at the First United Methodist Church.

“102” is a new troop that belongs to the Boy Scouts of America. Having been only established for three months, they need more members to join their organization.

The Okmulgee area has a long history of scouts, but only Cub Scouts, not Boy Scouts.

With no Boy Scout organization here, in order to continue in the scouts after Cub Scouts, some members would have to go to different towns to be able

to further their experience in the Scouts.

“There has not been a troop organization here in a long time. So I talked with our scoutmaster and we talked to members of the First United Methodist Church to see if they would be on board with letting us hold our meetings there. They were more than happy to help us so this is how we got the start,” Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Hames said.

Opportunity to earn merit badges is one of the main goals for the boys who join the Scouts; along with going to camps once a month throughout the year.

“With us, the boys of Troop 102 are in charge,” Hames said. “Whether it is, bake sale or car washes, the boys get to decide on what they want to do.

“There are over 133 merit badges,” he added. “They range from sports, hobbies and career opportunities. A lot of what goes on is decided and that is what

will help get these boys their merit badges.”

Hames is trying to recruit more tribal members for the Boy Scouts.

“We know that the Creek Nation has an Explorer program and we wanted to have the kids come out and join us before they reach the age to go to the Explorers,” he said.

There is a monthly fee of \$5, which covers national and regional Boy Scout fees. There are no other requirements for the scouts except to show up to the meetings and camps and be apart of Troop 102. Scouts will eventually have to get a uniform, however some of the fundraisers will help cover the costs if needed.

For more information about Troop 102, call Scoutmaster Robert Marek at 918-758-9143 or Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Hames at 918-798-3336.

Tribal Roads program completes Highway 62 project



MNN/Gerald Wofford  
Okfuskee County Commissioner Bruce Smith along with employees of the Haskell Lemon Construction Company and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Roads Program at the ribbon cutting ceremony July 26 for the Oklahoma State Highway 62 road project.

Ceremony held for improvements

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

WELEETKA, Okla. – A ribbon cutting ceremony was held July 26 for the completion of a U.S. Highway 62 repaving project by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program. For more than 20 years, U.S. Highway 62, which runs parallel to U.S. Interstate 40 from Okemah to Henryetta, Okla., made traveling tough for tribal citizens.

“This became a top priority,”

said MCN Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge. “It wasn’t drivable before and now it’s like a new highway. I think it’s really going to benefit our elderly that drive from Okemah and from Buckeye and areas back from Weleetka. They’d rather drive this road and stay off I-40.”

The project was estimated to have cost \$1.9 million.

MCN citizen Bruce Smith expressed his gratitude for the project.

“I appreciate Charley, the National Council and Chief Tiger for doing the job for us, I think people ought to be

proud of it.”

Smith is the county commissioner for Okfuskee County and also served as an MCN National Council representative for the Okfuskee District from 1995-2003.

The Haskell Lemon Construction Company was contracted to do the project and company owner Haskell Lemon was pleased with the outcome and plans submit the project to the Oklahoma Asphalt Association, which annually recognizes road construction projects with awards based on smoothness and quality.

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# MUSCOGEE VETERAN AND CIVILIAN MOTORCYCLE RIDERS



## 20th Annual Trail Of Tears Motorcycle Ride Monday 23 Sep 13 at 1200 Riders will assemble at the MCN VETERANS BUILDING PARKING LOT

- Muscogee and non Muscogee civilians are welcomed
- 50 total motorcycles only - First 50 to sign up go
- Riders are allowed to bring one passenger
- There will be no trace cars allowed
- Ride will be from Okmulgee to Checotah and back
- Riders report at 1130 - Formation at 1200 sharp
- Ride will take place regardless of weather
- Active duty Marine Corps Drill Instructors will be commanding the formations for the day (Participants please follow strict adherence and respect for military personnel & protocol)
- Chow will be served at 1600 at VASO
- Registration cut off is Monday, 2 Sep 2013 at 1200
- When calling to register please give name(s) and t-shirt size(s) for FREE custom event t-shirt

**Those interested in participating in this event please contact:**

**KEN DAVIS at 918-732-7739**

**(Please remember the first 50 to register will go on the motorcycle ride)**





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### GOSPEL SINGING SET FOR AUG. 17

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Annual gospel singing is set for 7 p.m., Aug. 17 at Little Creek #2 Church located at the intersection of old U.S. Highway 270 and Oklahoma State Highway 9.

The master of ceremonies will be Curtis Kinney and the church pastor is George Harjoch. Concessions will be available.

### FARM DIVERSIFICATION GRANT TRAINING SET FOR AUG. 20

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative is offering training Aug. 20 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the MFSI office for those who are interested in applying for the Farm Diversification Grants offered by the Oklahoma Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Program.

For more information or to RSVP call: 918-756-5915.

### SOIL HEALTH DEMONSTRATION SET FOR AUG. 22

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A soil health demonstration, agricultural tour and conservation training workshop is set for Aug. 22 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. at Langford Herefords Cattle Ranch, 6815 N. 317 Rd., Okmulgee, OK 74447.

RSVP by Aug. 19. For more information or for registration contact the Okmulgee NRCS Office at: 918-756-0850 or by email at: carol.crouch@ok.usda.gov.

### MVSKOKE LANGUAGE CLASSES STARTING AUG. 27

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Department will start hosting language classes Aug. 27 every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 - 1 p.m. at the MCN Housing Administration Building conference rooms on the 1st or 2nd floor.

For more information call: 918-732-7724.

### MCN DIABETES SUMMIT SET FOR AUG. 29

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health will host the 7th annual Diabetes Citizens' Summit Aug. 29 at the Muskogee Civic Center located at 425 Boston, Muskogee, OK 74402 from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information call Taylor Thompson at: 918-807-1561.

### CHEROKEE NATIONAL HOLIDAY 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SET FOR AUG. 30 - 31

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — A 3-on-3 basketball tournament, part of the 61st Cherokee National Holiday, is set for Aug. 30-31 at Markoma Gym in Tahlequah.

Teams must consist of players from federally recognized tribes. One non-Native player will be allowed.

The entry fee is \$40 for youth and \$50 for adults. Money orders should be made payable to Cherokee National Holiday 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament and mailed to Cherokee Nation Holiday Basketball ATTN: Kim Arneecher, 401 W. Leonard St., Jay, OK 74346. For more information contact Kim Arneecher at: 918-704-1057.

### CHALAKEE-BERRYHILL REUNION SET FOR AUG. 31 - SEPT. 1

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — A Chalakee-Berryhill family reunion is set for Aug. 31 at Springtown United Methodist Church.

For more information contact: 918-279-0869.

### MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE OPEN HOUSE SET FOR SEPT. 4

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office is holding an open house Sept. 4 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 333 S. Washita, OK.

The event will feature free hamburgers and hotdogs, information boots and drawings every 30 minutes.

For more information Contact the office by phone at: 405-452-1100 or 405-452-1102 or by email at: dtiger@mcn-nsn.gov or natashah@mcn-nsn.gov

### TULSA CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY ELECTION SET FOR SEPT. 17

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community 2013 officer election is set for Sept. 17 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the TCIC Community Center located at 8611 S. Union, Tulsa, OK 74132.

Elections will be held for the following positions: board of directors vice chairperson and sergeant-at-arms and business board chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

For more information contact TCIC at: 918-298-2464.

### DWIGHT MISSION ALUMNI REUNION SET FOR OCT. 5

MARBLE CITY, Okla. — A reunion for the alumni of Dwight Mission is set for Oct. 5 at the mission dining room.

Registration will be from 9 - 10 a.m. and the program begins at 10 a.m.

Bring your family, school picture and friends. For more information, contact Levada Smith-Wildcat at: 918-773-3096.

### INDIAN TACO CHAMPIONSHIP SET FOR OCT. 5

PAWHUSKA, Okla. — The 2013 National Indian Taco Championships has been set for Oct. 5 in downtown Pawhuska. Registration is due Aug. 31 for \$25 or Sept. 30 for \$50.

For more information or to enter contact the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce at: 918-287-1208 or email them at: Pawhuskachamber@sbcglobal.net.

A Dance contest will also be held. Preliminaries start at 11 a.m. and finals will be announced some time before 4 p.m. No registration fee is required.

### SYMPOSIUM ON MUSKOGEAN HISTORY SET FOR OCT. 10-11

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A symposium on Muskogean history and culture is set for Oct. 10-11 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex.

Renowned academic professionals will speak on the evidence and interpretation of their studies regarding Mvskoke civilization during the Mississippian Period up to the Pre-Removal Historic Period.

Everyone is invited to attend this event hosted by the MCN Department of Cultural Preservation.

### LEWIS-MARSHALL REUNION SET FOR NOV. 30

OKLAHOMA CITY — A Lewis and Mandy Marshall family reunion is set for Nov. 30. More information will be given monthly until finalized.

Family members are encouraged to submit their favorite cooking recipes so cookbooks can be made before the reunion.

For information contact Marsha at: 405-733-3578, regarding recipes contact Lydia Fish at: 405-629-5228.

### WETUMPKA HEAD START ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Wetumpka Head Start Program is accepting applications for the 2013-2014 school years.

The facility is located at 333 S. Washita, Wetumpka, OK and the hours of operation are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. For more information call: 405-452-1180.

### 2013 gathering of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association set for Oct. 5

Media Release

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The 2013 annual Gathering of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association is set for Oct. 5 from 12 - 5 p.m. at the Native American United Methodist Church at 800 S. Lemon St., Anaheim, CA 92805.

A MCN Tribal Identification Card is required for admission and all citizens are encouraged by to update their cards to the updated format through the MCN Citizenship Department. For more information about the new card contact Citizenship at: 1-800-482-1979

This is a pot-luck event, so please bring plenty of food, desserts and drinks to share.

To volunteer or for more information contact Eli Grayson at: 760-534-1632.



Photo Submission

L to R: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, Tulsa Drillers Infielder Joey Wong, KVOO 98.5FM Tulsa Morning Show host Carly Rush and Sgt. Marcus Jennings at the Tulsa Drillers baseball game July 26.

Tiger threw out the opening pitch at the game, which featured a special promotion for the first 2,500 attendees. The event was sponsored the MCN Department of Public Relations and the Tulsa Drillers.



MNN/Darren DeLaune

L to R: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, BancFirst President Lloyd M. Pickering, MCN Secretary of the Nation Bill Fife and MCN Small Business Development Specialist John Blue.

Pickering presents a check for \$25,000 to Tiger for the Joint Opportunities for Building Success grant to go toward economic development and job creation within Okfuskee County Oklahoma.



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# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## MCN makes deal to stop auction of artifacts

SEPT. 1, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 17  
"OTOWOSKUCE"  
LITTLE CHESTNUT

### MCN and CCHMA reach agreement to stop auction of Creek Council House artifacts

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The historical collection of artwork and artifacts that were part of the Creek Council House Museum were scheduled to go on the auction block Sept. 20.

That was, unless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation worked out an alternative for the collection with the Creek Council House Museum Association, formerly the Creek Indian Memorial Association, which maintained control of the collection. Much of the collection came from private donations made by Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

When the MCN purchased the Council House from the City of Okmulgee in November 2010, the artwork, artifacts and other furnishings were not part of the purchase. The association retained control and responsibility for them.

After two years of funding support from the tribe, the association contract with the Council House was terminated by the MCN National Council in TR-12-050, enacted April 28, 2012, with an effective date 180 days later. The language of



MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger along with members of the Creek Council House Museum Association Aug. 15 in front of the Creek Council House in Okmulgee, Okla., during a press conference to announce an agreement between the Nation and CCHMA, which stopped the auction of the Council House Museum collection.

the resolution stated in part, "Whereas the Nation is capable of operating and managing the Council House on its own and it desires to use its own resources for the management and operation of the Council House..." MCN Principal Chief George Tiger signed the resolution May 2, 2012.

The termination date was enacted in October 2012. Tribal funding ceased, leaving the association to bear the cost of maintaining and storing the

collection.

#### CCHMA Perspective

Association board member, Ester Gee, said the CCHMA had tried to work something out with the tribe and took their case to the National Council.

"We had met and started negotiations with chief and his council, gosh, way back last year," Gee said. "In January as I said, we had tried negotiations with the AG (attorney general) and didn't

get anywhere. After a couple letters back and forth. See, we had a 50-year lease and when Creek Nation bought the Council House that was 38 of the 50-year lease that was supposed to expire in 2050. They came in and said, 'we're not going to honor the lease,' you know, they didn't want anything to do with the lease, so we had to get the artifacts out, so then, 'what to do with the artifacts?'

ARTIFACTS - 3

## MCN takes ownership over Okmulgee Memorial Hospital

### Nation will add hospital to its six existing health centers

Kyla McKown  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and Neyle Cable, President of the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital Board, signed the agreement of ownership Aug. 15 for the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to be transferred to the MCN.

A press conference for the signing was held at the historic Creek Council House in Okmulgee. The actual takeover will take effect within 60 days.

Tiger started the conference by explaining the significance of holding this event at the Council House.

"Speaker Alexander and I talked about when we were young and small, and used to



MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (L) and Neyle Cable (R), President of the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital Board, signed the agreement of ownership for the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to be transferred to the MCN during a press conference Aug. 15 outside the Creek Council House in Okmulgee.

run around on this lawn and how our elders took care of business upstairs," Tiger said. "And at that time, even though the Muscogee (Creek) Nation didn't have the resources we have today, they certainly laid the foundation for us that are elected officials today, to carry on their vision and I feel it

was appropriate that we come here."

The hospital, located at 1401 Morris Drive in Okmulgee, will join the six medical facilities across the 11 county jurisdiction of the MCN, including a hospital in Okemah.

Secretary of the MCN Division of Health Lt. Commander

Seneca Smith explained the Nation's goal for the facility.

"Our goal is to expand to where our community members don't have to drive to Oklahoma City or Tulsa to get the health care they need," Smith said.

Along with Muscogee (Creek) citizens, the hospital will be made available to residents of Okmulgee and the surrounding area.

The doctor's buildings are not included in the hospital takeover but the MCN does plan to negotiate later concerning the other property.

It was also mentioned that there should be no concerns about the emergency room or any other part of the hospital operating differently after the transition is completed within an estimated 30 to 60 days.

Cable said it's exciting as a citizen of Okmulgee to hear and know about what the Nation has planned for the

HOSPITAL - 2



### MCN purchases George Nigh Rehabilitation Center

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

NORMAN, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and University of Oklahoma President David Boren signed an agreement Aug. 12 at Boren's office in Norman transferring ownership of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center in Okmulgee, Okla., from OU to the MCN.

In what's being called a "historic" event, the MCN became the first tribal government to receive title to a facility formerly owned by OU.

George Nigh is a physical rehabilitation hospital located in northern Okmulgee, along U.S. Highway 75. It provides acute rehabilitative services and comprehensive outpatient care for patients with disabling illness or injury.

Tiger looked to the expansion of health care services for tribal citizens and to working with a major university.

"We've felt at the outset from this, our administration, that health is very important. We made it a priority to add to what we were doing in health and enhance and grow as we go along. So, we're pleased that this day has come and we look forward to a lasting relationship with the University of Oklahoma."

Boren called it a 'happy day' and said that George Nigh was going to the right people.

"We know that we're placing this facility in the hands of people who will meet that responsibility to those who need intense, intensive rehabilitation. We are placing this facility in the right hands, with great confidence."

The center treats conditions that require intensive rehabilitation including: back, neck and spinal cord injuries, stroke, amputation, joint replacements and fractures, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's disease and other chronic conditions.

Boren added that the univer-

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MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

**STAFF**

MANAGER  
CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE

EDITOR  
STERLING COSPER

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
GARY FIFE

REPORTER  
KYLA MCKOWN

REPORTER  
JESSICA MCBRIDE

REPORTER  
DARREN DELAUNE

FEATURE WRITER  
GERALD WOFFORD

CIRCULATION  
WILMA MURPHY

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MCN National Council candidates answer questions at forum



Leaders in Training member Jason Salsman chooses a random question and district during the Shake the Vote candidate forum Aug. 17 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

Candidates answer questions during forum for upcoming election.

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Candidates running in the upcoming Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Seat B primary election Sept. 21 answered questions from Muscogee (Creek) citizens and audience members Aug. 17 during a candidate forum.

The event, hosted by Enhomattv Semeheckvylke, was held at the Mvskoke Dome and was the second event put on by the Leaders of the Future grass roots group.

For the first part of the forum, a raffle ticket wheel was used to choose a random question submitted by Muscogee (Creek) citizens to ask all the candidates from a district, which was also chosen at random by the same process.

The last part of the forum was open to questions from the audience asked to a group of candidates from the same district chosen randomly by raffle wheel.

Creek District candidates, Frances Morgan and Dode Barnett were asked what recommendations they would have if the National Council had a written code of ethics.

Barnett, the seat incumbent, stated her belief in having a higher standard at all times, whether holding a National Council seat or not. Morgan focused on the importance of thorough background checks.

Okfuskee District candidates were asked what the role of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen is in today's society. Lena Wind, the seat incumbent, and Celesta Johnson focused on each citizen working to strengthen the government.

"I'm here as your voice to represent you as a whole, and I need your input each and every day. If you have a concern, issue, bring that to me and I should be your voice and provide that to our government," Celesta Johnson said.

The Okfuskee candidates were asked why they are running for National Council.

"I've been a servant to this Nation. I've worked for the citizens solved a lot of problems one-on-one but I'd like to be a part of the big picture; to help make the decisions to streamline the Nation. Great communication has always been something I hold up because I want us to have a solid foundation," Celesta Johnson said.

Tulsa District candidates were asked about the biggest issue or threat today for the MCN.

Incumbent Sam Alexander mentioned that the MCN's tobacco compact with the state

of Oklahoma will expire in 2019 and should be considered and talked about right now.

Lucian Tiger III said the biggest threat he sees is government funding and the Nation needs to stop spending money in places it can't spend it, such as the golf courses, which he says are not making a dime.

Rodney Josie said his main concern for the MCN is to not turn any citizen away and to support the tribe as much as possible.

Lastly for Tulsa District, Carol McHenry Williams said her focus of concern is the economic development. She said she would like to see not just Tulsa but the entire community be dependent on not only smoke shops and casinos but also other means of revenue.

During the audience question portion, an attendee asked the McIntosh District if the candidates would support a public disclosure act of public officials of MCN. All three candidates supported the idea.

Education was also discussed; an audience member asked when we would build our own schools and institutions.

Creek District candidates were given this question. Morgan said she doesn't see the MCN building a public school anytime soon. While Barnett said it's difficult to start these schools when our communities are spread out and not in one central area like traditional reservations.

A discussion stemmed from a question asked by a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Eli Grayson, who asked about the hiring MCN citizens to build casinos and hospitals, rather than outsourcing to non-Creek contractors. He said he would like to see programs that train citizens in roofing, carpentry, welding and other trades.

"The money is available to provide for any Creek individual to pursue training in those areas," Eddie LaGrone, Muskogee District incumbent said. "As far as I'm concerned those programs are unlimited."

Joyce Deere also supported the idea of funding and training citizens to do these jobs in the future.

"It's important to lobby for our citizens. Like I said before many people need jobs, want jobs and we want to see them working for the tribe. Anything that will bring money back to the tribe," Deere said.

Also discussed, were two proposed constitutional amendments that will be voted on in the upcoming election. View these amendments in their entirety on page 15.

The primary election will be held Sept. 21 and the general election will take place Nov. 2.

NIGH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (L) and University of Oklahoma President David Boren (R) sign an agreement Aug. 12 at the OU President's Office in Norman, Okla., to transfer ownership of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center in Okmulgee, Okla., from OU to the MCN.

sity made the deal to help the tribe and use the facility to its full extent.

"I think that we really saw that there was such a need for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation growing numbers of people who needed this intensive care and so really we were at a point where the Creek Nation was going to have to look at perhaps building its own facility.

"We've been, I think, operating at a very high level of excellence but we have not always had a full contingent of patients, so there was room in that facility for an expansion of our patient load and so, instead of building something new and having a facility there that was not being fully utilized, it just made sense to transfer the title over to the Creek nation.

"As I said, it's something we did out of our great respect also the kind of health programs that are being run by the Nation."

The \$1 million price tag, Boren said, was something that satisfied the university.

"We didn't seek to make a profit off of it, if you really want to think about it that way. We've made improvements on the property since it was handed to us for our care back in 1999. So, really, all we sought from the agreement was to make ourselves whole."

Tiger was proud of making the ground-breaking agreement between a public university and the tribal government.

"It was and I think that both sides of the table, if you will, did a good job making sure that the bases were covered.

"When we heard that there was this opportunity that had become available one of the first things Secretary Smith (MCN Division of Health Director Lt. Seneca Smith) and I

did was get with our friends in the state legislature from our area to basically express our interest in this.

"So, we made sure again that we were going to have support on the floor of the legislature if this became something that was going to come to them."

Tiger felt that the price worked out between them was agreeable but not all the reason for the tribe making the deal.

"I think that was one of the main things of interest for us. But, logistically, it was a big plus for us and certainly one of the reasons we pursued it.

"I don't think it was about making money from the perspective of the University of Oklahoma. But, from our perspective, it was about adding to health resources that just expands what we do in our health division."

Smith said acquisition of the George Nigh Center would enable the Nation to serve all tribal members who needed this care.

"This just gives us an opportunity. Right now, we're kind of restricted in how many we can get in there. Now, it opens the door that we'll be able to take one hundred percent of our individuals will be able to go through the center at this time."

According to Smith, the MCN will upgrade medical equipment where needed and there are plans to retain current staff members. Qualified tribal members will be added as staff positions become available.

During a quarterly session of the MCN National Council July 27, Smith and Tiger stated the new name being considered for the facility is the MCN Rehabilitation Center.

Sources did not say when the hand over or name change of the center would take effect.

HOSPITAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hospital and that the deal is a win-win for the community.

Cable said the OMH would be complimentary to the building of the new Okemah hospital that is set for groundbreaking in September, as well as the Eufaula Health Center being renovated from 7,000 to 60,000 square feet starting in January.

The importance of this agreement was made known by Smith by stating what type of impact will come from this turn over.

"Cities, counties and states instead of working against each other, join in partner to provide a type of care, a type of economic development and a type of future that is certainly beneficial to everyone," Smith said before the signing.

Because there was a change in ownership, there was no actual price in the negotiation. The MCN will take over any current operation of the hospital and the new owners will assume any type of debt.

The facility is a nonprofit hospital that employs a staff of approximately 250 health care professionals and support staff.

The Nation's purchase of the OMH and recent purchase of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center Aug. 12 is all part of an expanding health care system to provide as many services as possible.

Smith also said the plan for the Okmulgee hospital will be to construct a larger facility in the Nation's capitol city within the next couple of years.



ARTIFACTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"So we had been negotiating with the chief and the AG to no avail. I asked if I could go in front of the National Council and try to see what they wanted to do, cause we hadn't gone anywhere with the other method."

Gee continued, "In January, I went to Sam Alexander and asked if I could speak to the Council. He put me on the pre-agenda Jan. 26, (2013). It was at nine that morning. David Anderson went with me. He was the director at that time. We took some artifacts, samples of what had to do with Creek history to share with them and try to get them to do some negotiations, some kind of commitment that they wanted the artifacts."

A letter from Roger Wiley, MCN Attorney General dated Feb. 11, 2013, stated that the Jan. 26 presentation by the association had not given the tribal administration or the National Council any prior notice about the issue, so they did not have the sufficient information to make any response.

The letter went on to request information about the association's mission statement, a detailed inventory of the artifacts, any legal titles for any of the collection pieces and a dozen other requirements and considerations.

That effort, Gee said, produced no action. The association, Gee declared, had to pay for storage but they had no income.

"We've got a building where we were storing it but we had to pay rent and all the utilities and we're not getting any funding, so that was the decision made to do that."

At that point, Gee noted, no discussions occurred with the principal chief, because the chief was working through his attorney.

A discussion with MCN Museum and Cultural Center Director John Beaver did not produce any results either, Gee said.

"I talked to John Beaver at the senior citizens gathering at the tribal college. I talked to him for about 30 minutes trying to get him to understand what was happening.

"All he kept talking about was how to appraise the artifacts and I kept trying to get him to understand if they would make a commitment, they (the collection) could be sold as a lesser price. Because now, when they go before the auction they're going to have to pay the bigger price, whereas before, there wouldn't have been that much."

Gee said that a full inventory of the collection had been completed, but didn't have a final figure for the number of pieces. An estimate of the collection's value, she said, was not made either since the association could not afford to hire appraisers.

Gee stated that in July, Cowan's Auction Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio, removed two truckloads of material and transported it to their facility.

Descriptions on the Cowan's website called it a "whirlwind pick-up." Three hundred twenty-six segments were listed on Cowan's website.

Among the artifacts listed are artworks by Enoch Kelly Haney, Johnny Tiger, Fred Beaver, Acee Blue Eagle, Will Sampson and many others.

Some of the other items include: hat pins, buttons, photographs, dance shawls, cannonballs, medals, documents, sculpture, hymnbooks, a copy of the early Creek Constitution, a cradle and ballsticks.

The Cowan's Auction website is located at: [www.cowanauctions.com](http://www.cowanauctions.com). The Council House

collection items were listed under 'Upcoming Auctions.' Requests for interviews from Wes Cowan, the owner of the auction house and staff had no response.

Comments made by subscribers on the 'Muscogee Nation News' Facebook page in late July expressed dissatisfaction with the association's action, the tribal government for its part in the situation and pleaded for some solution to keep the collection in Okmulgee.

Where an object's former owners could be identified, Gee added, attempts had been made to return them to the people who had made the donations.

Gee agreed that the loss of tangible items of Muscogee (Creek) history would be a sad state of affairs. If and when an auction takes place, the non-profit

consensus our efforts, whether it's from Muscogee (Creek) Nation side or the association side, is to keep as many of those artifacts here locally."

He questioned the motivation behind the sale and he would like to block the auction.

"We do understand that there's some artifacts the auction house has. Now, my question to that group is 'who's really driving this ship, is it the association or is it the auction house?' Because I feel like as an association or even as a Nation, we should be able to dictate as to how this ship is steered.

"The reason was that, I know that in the Tulsa World it said that the auction said that we were to be able to have a dedicated line for any bids that we wanted to do. Our goal is to make sure that there

goal as Muscogee (Creek) Nation was to offer our resources to them. We were even going to offer workers to help with the actually moving of artifacts to make sure that they were catalogued and done correctly."

As far as progress in developing a museum to house the collection, Tiger said the tribe did have a group of administrative staff and National Council members addressing the situation and progress was being made.

"They meet on a regular basis to talk about architectural renderings. They actually have, I believe started the process of hiring an architect. I was invited to a meeting about three weeks ago (mid-July) that I couldn't make.

"That was at an office of the people that was actually doing the rendering. There is movement in

individual's opinion. But you also use bits and pieces of those things to try to direct your efforts in a way that maybe people can see that there are some things that have started or the wheels in motion to try and keep those properties here. That's our goal.

"As far as Muscogee (Creek) Nation is concerned, whether it's this office or whether its members of the National Council, our legislature, our goal is to keep those artifacts here. That's our single goal to be able to keep those things here and we're working hard to see that those things aren't auctioned off. That's our goal. That's what I want our people to know.

"Their government hasn't fallen down. We may have stuttered a little bit in this issue, but again, I'm not pointing fingers at anybody or anything like that. I just think that's sometimes as a government people don't have patience to see the wheels of government in motion as slow as it is sometimes but I want to assure people that our goal in this particular issue is to make sure that they stay here."

An Agreement

In a press conference on the lawn of the Council House Aug. 15, Tiger said the tribe and museum association officials had reached an agreement to return the artifacts to Okmulgee and for the tribe to attempt to find the owners of donated pieces in the collection.

"I know that there's been a lot of comments, a lot of public sentiment about this great building behind us, about the artifacts that were housed in this building. I must tell you, a lot of times those types of things are talked about, sometimes it's easy to react to misinformation and I think sometimes that's what we saw with this particular topic.

"I want to commend both the Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials and the Creek Council House Association officials for getting this thing worked out. I must tell you that the initial meeting a month ago, we agreed at that time that the artifacts that was housed in this building must stay in Okmulgee. We all agreed on that.

"On our second meeting, we agreed that we were going to do what we could to keep those artifacts here. But, not only that, if need to give back to the owners or the families that had donated or loaned to the museum those artifacts.

"Yesterday (Aug. 14), we had a meeting in my office and I want to tell that we're able to make this announcement today."

When asked about the details of the agreement or an amount to be paid that would return the artifact collection to Muscogee (Creek) ownership, Tiger did not elaborate, saying that talks with the National Council to finalize the deal still had to take place.

"At the request of both sides, we will be getting with our various entities, if you will, discuss those terms. It was a very mutual agreement to in terms of an amount that we felt that both parties was able to agree on. But, I would like to meet first with our National Council to be able to visit with them before we can answer any questions."

Local museums, Tiger added, such as the Gilcrease and Five Civilized Tribes museums have offered to assist in the storage of the collection until the MCN has prepared a facility. Art works from other tribes may be offered back to those tribes after an inventory is finalized.

The Creek Council House collection will become the property of the MCN, once returned to Okmulgee.



MNN/File Photo

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House in downtown Okmulgee, Okla. A recent deal between the MCN and the Creek Council House Museum Association announced Aug. 15 stopped the auction of the Council House Museum collection, which had been previously given to Cowna's Auction Inc. by the association to handle the transaction.

CCHMA would have to donate the remainder of the collection or the proceeds to another non-profit group, she said.

"We would have to give it back to some 501 (C) (3) organization 'cause we're not a money-making organization. At one point, we were talking about maybe donating the artifacts to, like, Gilcrease (Tulsa's Gilcrease Museum) or the Five Tribes (Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muscogee, Okla.). But, that money will go to the 501 (C) (3) organization."

Chief Tiger's Perspective

Tiger spoke with the Tulsa World July 22 saying the planned auction goes against tribal tradition.

"Well, certainly, as you know, traditionally, culturally, as Muscogee people we don't feel like history is for sale. Having said that, about a month ago (early July) actually facilitated a meeting with the Creek Indian Museum Association along with myself and representatives from our museum as well as the attorney general.

"Really had a great dialogue with the group. When that particular meeting ended we all were on the same boat, same page of our attempt to keep that collection here in Okmulgee. That's our goal."

In spite of that meeting, Tiger said some of the collection was trucked out of Okmulgee to the auction house in Cincinnati, but he wasn't aware of how much of it went into the hands of the auction house.

"Since then, you know, there has been some movement of some of the collection going out. We don't know as to how much of the collection is Creek. We're trying to find out. Just this past Monday (July 29), we were able to facilitate another meeting with the group.

"I invited some of our Council members to go with me, along with our attorney general and representatives from our Muscogee (Creek) museum group. Again, we continued dialogue. It is, I think, a

is no bidding from the standpoint of the Nation. We want to work as hard as we can.

"National Council members that were at that meeting, they're wanting to work to see if money needs to be appropriated or whatever that we all in unity on that to make sure that those properties stay here or in the hands of the families," Tiger said.

Tiger said many of the families made donations or loans of artifacts and they want those materials in the collection to remain with the tribe.

Tiger responded to criticisms from the CCHMA and other comments about the attention given to the artifact collection.

"What I do know is that as a museum person and, of course, I'm not one, but John and Justin (MCN Museum and Cultural Center Director John Beaver and Assistant Director Justin Giles) are because they worked for the Native American Museum in D.C. (the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian), I think what John probably said was, 'Before anything is done, I think we need to catalog what you have.'

"Museum people don't go out and appraise. That's someone else. But we offered our staff to help them catalog what they may have. It wasn't about appraising. The appraisal word was actually used from the association side of the table, if you will. Because they really don't know what they have, they really don't."

Tiger added that citizens shouldn't jump to any conclusions about the association's actions.

"But I believe it was most eloquently stated by one of our Council members is that association should not be looked at as a negative one-hundred percent. Because they were only doing what people were asked them to do. They tried to the best of their ability to take care of some very important artifacts.

"Of course, they really didn't know what they have. And so our

that area. Unfortunately, it may not be at a rate that we would all like for it to be. But, I do agree, I think that there should be more of an attempt on reporting these things."

As far as working with the CCHMA, Tiger contended that had been the case and that group had not been overlooked or ignored.

"I believe we have worked with them. Number one, which I think is real important; we worked with them to actually fund their employees for almost two years so they would be able to have a salary.

"I believe we have worked with them in many areas. It's unfortunate that the person that we all depended on, to some degree, passed away recently and that's Dave Anderson (David Anderson, former Creek Council House Museum Director) because he was a wealth of knowledge. You know, he actually served in some ways as a liaison to both entities. But, we have worked with them.

"The comment about they tried to work with us, I think, it was stated the other day that they had tried to work with the administration but not this administration and they see that this administration is working with them and wanting to do some of the things that they see as a 'win-win' for everyone."

The public perception, he said, is something that has been running on the negative side, giving the wrong impressions of inactivity, of desires for financial gain and an intra-tribal battle over the control of any artifacts or proceeds for the planned auction.

Responding to comments in the social media, Tiger felt people expressed personal opinions and there was some useful ideas contained in some of them.

"Well, you know, everyone has their right to their own opinion and I've always valued that. Sometimes, whether its bad or whatever situation may be, you have to take those opinions as for what they are and that's an



## School clothing program offers assistance to MCN citizens



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program is taking applications from families needing assistance with the purchase of clothing for the upcoming school year.

### Department makes a difference

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program is taking applications from families needing assistance with the purchase of clothing for the upcoming school year.

The tribally funded program will accept applications until Nov. 1 or until funding for this year's program runs out.

“We want to get out there that we can help any Muscogee (Creek) citizen out there in the United States,” School Clothing Coordinator Robbin Hayes said. “They do not have to be in the Creek Nation jurisdiction.”

Citizens seeking assistance must call the program and ask for an application. Applications are also available online.

“We do not mail out until we get a request first. It is very important that they know that,” Hayes said.

No CDIB cards will be accepted and applications must be completed entirely. The program already has cards on file for citizens who applied last year and they will not need to provide a card to apply this year. Applications can be turned in by dropping them off at the office, mail, fax or email.

A copy of a report card verifying that the child is advancing to the next grade level must be submitted for children in pre-kindergarten through the age of 15.

The school must complete a verification form for students who are 16-years-old through high school seniors. The program does not offer assistance to college students.

“Per Oklahoma law, at the age of 16, kids can drop out,” Hayes

said. “So for those ages, 16 and up, we need the school to fill out the verification form.”

Hayes explained the approval process after applications are submitted.

“First thing we do as soon as we get the application in is log it in to our database. Then our workers go through the applications to make sure everything is there and if they were applicants last year, we make sure they turned in their receipts from last year. We make sure there are no duplicate applications. The applications go to our manager for signing and after we make copies they are sent to accounting and that is where the check is cut and mailed out from.”

After school clothing department is done accepting applications, their jobs are not done. They still have a lot of things to do to get prepared for the next year's applicants.

“We have to catch up on processing the receipts,” Hayes said. “We have to review each one to make sure that they are buying school clothes with the money and not anything else. That is a long process especially when looking over numerous receipts. After that is done and everything is okay we will send out letters to let them know if they are approved for next year.”

Second year applicant Kayla Rabbit is pleased with the program and what it has done for her.

“Being a single mother, I am very thankful for this program,” Rabbit said. “It has helped me out a lot.”

School clothing receipts need to be turned in to the office no later than Dec. 31. There will be no exceptions.

For more information on the program or to obtain an application call: 918-549-2473.

## MCN DOH holds ceremony for mobile health unit



MNN/Sterling Cosper  
A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Aug. 16 at the Veterans Flag Memorial on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla., for the MCN Division of Health's new Mobile Health Unit. The unit was donated to the MCN DOH by Hillcrest Medical Center and will be utilized to provide mobile health screenings and immediate care to Muscogee (Creek) citizens. (L to R): MCN DOH Administrative Assistant Crystal Aikins, MCN National Council Rep. Pearl Thomas, MCN DOH Director Lt. Seneca Smith, Secretary of the MCN National Council Rep. Frank Coachman, MCN Chief of Staff Bo Colbert, MCN National Council Rep. Pete Beaver, MCN DOH Chief Operating Officer Rhonda Beaver

## Wilson School dedicates new playground equipment



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Reps. Pearl Thomas and Shirlene Ade prepare to cut the ribbon for the new playground at Wilson Public Schools while school faculty and board members watch.

### Council helps local school finance new playground

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Aug. 5 for Wilson Public Schools' new playground equipment, which was financed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

During a regular session of the MCN National Council Feb. 23, the Council approved NCA 13-052 sponsored by Reps. Pearl Thomas and Lena Wind appropriating \$20,595.00 for the equipment.

Wilson Schools Superintendent, Andrea James is thankful for the new playground equipment.

The previous playground has been around for a num-

ber of years and children who played on it were risking injury every time they set foot on the playground.

“I am thrilled for the new playground,” James said. “We do not have to worry about the kids being hurt on the old equipment. It has been a long time coming and I am very happy to see this for our students.”

He credited the MCN and a member of the National Council.

“This would not have been done without the Muscogee (Creek) Nation helping us,” James said. “Our representative Pearl (Thomas) helped push this bill to get this for us and was with it every step of the way.”

Reps. Thomas and Shirlene Ade, were both at the ribbon cutting and spoke on what it

means to the community.

“It is a wonderful thing,” Thomas said. “The other playground was old and falling apart, and just to see the kids have a good time, I love it.”

Ade commented on the Council's relationship with the MCN communities.

“The National Council always supports their communities,” she said. “These communities are the backbone of Creek Nation. Just look at the face of these kids playing on here and that shows the success from all of us working together to make this happen.”

Many of the children enrolled at Wilson are Muscogee (Creek) citizens. The community is located nine miles north of Henryetta, Okla.

The dedication ceremony for the equipment was held two days before school began.

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# The Battle of Burnt Corn Creek

From the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Cultural Preservation

March 28, 2014 will mark 200 years since the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, where our Maskoke ancestors made their final stand to fight for our ancestral homelands in the southeast. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation office is planning a series of events to honor our ancestors who fought and subsequently walked the long road to Indian Territory, or The Blood Road, as some of the survivors called it. To commemorate this pivotal event in our peoples' history, we will publish an article each month on the events that led up to the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Let us begin with.... July, 27 1813, The Battle of Burnt Corn Creek

By: Larry Haikey

The first skirmish in what is known as the Creek War of 1813-1814, took place July 27, 1813 on the bank of Burnt Corn Creek, a small stream in present day Monroe County, Ala. This marked the first time an organized military unit attacked a group of Muscogee warriors, during this period of conflict. From this battle the war grew to larger and more intense conflicts.

There does not appear to be any single circumstance that brought about the Creek War of 1813-1814 but rather a series of events and changes that came to a head in 1813. An increased reliance on deerskin trade was evident by the 1800's. Deerskins were used to purchase guns, ammunition and other items used during the year. The trade in deerskins marked a shift from being self sufficient in that the family provided for their needs through raising crops and hunting and fishing for their personal use.

In order to maintain a steady supply of pelts, the lands surrounding towns needed to remain wooded and not put in cultivation by farms. At the same time the Creeks needed their forested lands. There was an increase in the number of plantation style farms among some Creeks and intermarried whites. These farms were increasing in the southwestern portion of Alabama on the Tombigbee River.

The political and government of the surrounding area was

also changing. Alabama until 1817 was a part of Mississippi Territory. Mississippi Territory originally was composed of the southern half of the two present states of Mississippi and Alabama. This land was in dispute between the U.S. and Spain until Spain ceded their claim to the territory in 1795 by the Treaty of New Madrid.

The northern half of the territorial area was under the control of Georgia until it released its claim to the area in 1802. Two years later in 1804, the northern area was added to Mississippi Territory.

The Gulf Coast region that included Mobile and Biloxi was annexed in 1812.

This establishment of a U.S. territory that included Creek lands became the territorial rationale for actions against the Muscogee warriors. The war is described in several articles as a civil war between the upper and lower Creeks. However, the written records of the war almost exclusively detail the conflicts between Creeks and either the Mississippi Territory or Tennessee state militia.

The third major event that appears to have brought the conflict to a head in 1813, was the rise of the influence of the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh and his brother, The Prophet. Tecumseh worked to unite the tribes from north to south to fight the Americans. Tecumseh visited Creek country in 1811 and gave a speech to the gathered chiefs of the towns to gain support for his idea for all the tribes from the great lakes to the Gulf Coast to fight the Americans together to return to a life free from the corruptive influence of the Americans. Little Warrior and 30 Creeks returned to the north with Tecumseh.

While in the north, Little Warrior and his group helped Tecumseh, who was allied with the British in the War of 1812 against the U.S. While in Canada, Little Warrior received a letter of recommendation from a British General for service to the General. This letter played a role in the days before the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek.

During the return to Alabama, Little Warrior and six men with him attacked and killed settlers

along the Ohio River. Upon their return to their homes in Alabama, Benjamin Hawkins, the U.S. Indian Agent, demanded they be turned over for punishment. A council of Mekkos decided to handle the incident internally and had the group executed in the Spring of 1813.

This very action demonstrates the Muscogee way of life was changing in response to the influence of the surrounding foreign countries. Killing an enemy was not previously considered a crime.

The action apparently defined Little Warrior's action not an act of war. It appears to have been a decision to appease the neighboring country. By this action more may have become supporters of Tecumseh's proposal to drive the American influence from the area.

In July of 1813, a group that included High Head Jim and Peter McQueen started for Pensacola to trade items they had taken from those that were thought were Americanized. This party included about 300 men and several packhorses. The group seized more goods, cattle and prisoners during their journey to Pensacola. Along the way they met Samuel McNac. McNac apparently was a prosperous half Creek. McNac convinced High Head Jim that he intended to sell his property and join the fight against the Americans to the extent that High Hat Jim told McNac of plans to attack the settlers, both Creek and white, in southwest Alabama. Almost immediately after the groups parted, McNac informed the territorial authorities of the plan. Mississippi Territory militia leader Col. James Caller sent David Tate and William Pierce to Pensacola to spy on the group.

When High Hat Jim and his group reached Pensacola they presented the Spanish Governor the letter from the British General. The group thought the letter authorized the governor to provide them with guns and ammunition. The governor initially did not provide the guns and ammunition but later assisted in providing the group with 300 pounds of guns and ammunition.

David Tate reported the suc-

cess of the High Hat Jim party to Col. Caller. Caller immediately began the process of raising a group of militia to intercept the High Hat Jim party on its return to their towns in central and northern Alabama. On July 27, 1813, the Muscogee group was in camp on the bank of Burnt Corn Creek when Col. Caller and his group of militia discovered them. The group was preparing a meal when Col. Caller's militia group attacked them. The Muscogee group was surprised by the attack and offered a brief resistance before retreating to thick brush surrounding the creek.

When the resistance to the attack lessened, the militia began looting the packhorses and personal items left behind. The militia focused on the goods they were plundering and did not follow the retreating Muscogee warriors.

The warriors, when they realized they were not being pursued, returned to their camp and found the militia distracted began their attack. This counter attack completely surprised the militia. The Mississippi militia was caught by surprised and hastily retreated. Several used the packhorses to escape while others ran into the thickets. The Muscogee continued their attack until the militia was completely driven from the area. The Muscogee won the battle even if they lost several packhorses with guns and ammunition.

July 27, 1813 battle at Burnt Corn Creek is considered to be the beginning of the war that was to last until March 27, 1814.

Coming next: The Battle of Fort Mims

Hofunvke  
Emvyetvn  
Vcayecvlke



## Cultural Preservation Office



Male and Female Human Effigies from Etowah Mounds in Georgia

### Contact Info

918-732-7733

Alfred L. Berryhill-Manager

Odette Freeman-Manager Asst.

Johnnie Wesley-Secretary

Emman Spain- THPO

(Tribal Historic Preservation Officer)

Terry Cole- Deputy THPO-

NAGPRA/NHPA Specialist

David Proctor-Cultural Specialist

Rosina Johnson-Librarian

Chumona Deere-Archivist

Gano Perez- Cultural Tech.

### Cemetery Crew

Charles Kelly- Crew Supervisor

Allen King-Cemetery Tech.

Robin Soweka-Cemetery Tech.

Charley Hicks-Cemetery Tech.



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### A Muskogean Symposium 2013




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Immerse your mind deep within the Mvskoke Civilization from the Mississippian Period (Mound Builders) up to the Pre-Removal Historic Period. Renowned Academic Professionals will speak on the Evidence and Interpretations of their studies.

Everyone is personally invited by the Cultural Preservation Office to attend this milestone Symposium.

## \$Priceless



October 10th & 11th 9am-4pm @ Muscogee Nation Tribal Complex- Auditorium in the Mound Hwy 75 & Loop 56 Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447



## Local baseball team takes third in N.Y. tournament



Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ baseball team members: Michael Antonio, Kinson Michel, Grant Jones, Mason Auer, Perry Bartels, Blake Mozley and Muscogee (Creek) members: Michael Adair, Brock Hicks, DaKota Waggnor, Preston Sams, Wecate Lowe, Reece Chiasson and Gavin Porter along with coaches Michael Adair and Jeff White.

### Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ show love for God through sports

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ, known as DS4JC, a 12-year-old and under baseball team headed east to Buffalo, N.Y., to participate in the Sixth annual New Era Cap Classic July 26-28. More than 25 teams participated in American's favorite pastime through this prestigious tournament.

Dog Soldiers came from the mind of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lucas Taylor, a member of New Beginnings Baptist Church northwest of Henryetta, Okla. He learned about the meaning of the term Dog Soldiers, which came from the Cheyenne Native American plains tribe

The Cheyenne had certain soldiers, called Dog Soldiers that fought a peculiar way during battle. These warriors would carry a sash with them to battle. Before the battle began, they would tie the sash to their body and pin the other side to the earth. They would stand their ground until the battle was over or to the death.

“Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ is part of our youth ministry for the New Beginnings Baptist Church,” Taylor said. “How the Cheyenne warriors fought for their tribe, we need to fight for Jesus Christ that way. They put that sash into the earth and stood their ground. That is what we need

to do, stand our ground for Christ.”

The DS4JC started holding basketball tournaments in the previous years and added a new thing when they decided to take a team to New York for a baseball tournament.

“My main reason for going to this tournament is we felt God wanted us to go here to spread what we are doing for him and what he is doing for us,” Taylor said. “Another reason is I wanted these kids to experience life outside of their small communities.”

Out of the 25 teams, DS4JC ended up placing third in the tournament.

“I was very amazed with how the kids reacted to everything,” Taylor said. “Although we ended up getting third, we did not feel like we lost. We felt like we were there for God and to deliver his message through our team. That is a big victory for him and us.”

There was a selection process for the kids to see who would be on the team. Kids were chosen not only for their athletic skills with baseball, but also good ambassadors for the team and the youth ministry. The coaches wanted character that fell in line for the sport and with the teachings of biblical principal.

“We knew we were going to get kids who are very good at baseball,” Taylor said. “We know they will only get better. We were looking for kids who had great character both on and off the field. We wanted them to understand that they

would not only be representing us but also our church and the Lord.”

B.J. Waggnor, coach and parent of player Tre’ Waggnor, was very happy for the opportunity for the team to be able to go to New York to see other competition.

“It was great to be out there with my son,” B.J. Waggnor said. “He got to experience new teams and see how they play out here in the east coast and also get to meet new kids that have the same interests as him. I appreciate the Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ for letting him be a part of this team.”

Tre’ Waggnor shares the same feeling as his father.

“It was real fun going with the Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ to New York” Tre’ Waggnor said. “I got to meet new people and it was a great time.”

After the tournament ended, Mike Adair, coach for DS4JC reminded them before they separated of their individual worth.

“Each person is given a gift or talent from the Lord,” Adair said. “Ask yourself, how are you using that gift or talent to impact his kingdom.”

The DS4JC wants to thank Brad Fox with Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise and Floyd Jones from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division and Victor Bear from 4 Love of the Game.

For more information on the Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ tryouts, tournaments and updates, go to <http://www.dog-soldiers4jesuschrist.org>.

## MNN welcomes Reporters Jessica McBride and Kyla McKown



OKMULGEE, Okla. — My name is Jessica McBride and I am one of the newest reporters for *Muscogee Nation News*.

I recently moved to Okmulgee from Fort Worth, Texas. I was born and raised in Texas, but always felt the need to travel and see new things and cultures. Most of my childhood was spent in Del Rio, Texas, living about 2 miles from the border of Mexico.

I knew I was destined for the media world in high school. I took every journalism and broadcasting elective possible. Despite the state of the journalism business, I was inspired to pursue my passion by my broadcasting and yearbook teacher.

My teacher, Carmen (Ab) Sutton, taught me that above anything else, should do something that I enjoy.

Her daily enthusiasm emboldened her students to seek out the best in everyone and ignited a spark of energy in every project that we took on.

In 2008, I graduated from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, with a degree in communications emphasizing public relations and journalism.

While most college students struggle to get up in the morning, I found myself watching the news on TV and keeping up with all of the local and national happenings in the newspaper.

While in college, I interned in the media relations department for two years. I learned firsthand what it took to, not only represent a large organization, but how each and every person plays a role in the institution's public relations and advertising.

Right out of college I entered the workforce, and took the first opportunity that came along. I've spent several years in the mortgage and banking industries, learning everything as I went. Each job and promotion I took never seemed to fit and I longed to fill the void to write.

After moving to Okmulgee, I decided I was going to pursue my dream and find a career I knew I would love.

I found a job working for the *Okmulgee Daily Times* in advertising and enjoyed working in a small community once again.

I think working for the MNN is a great opportunity for me, not only as a writer, but to fulfill my desire to learn about other cultures and communities.

I believe that everyone has a story. Everyone has a tale to tell. Working for MNN will allow me to experience Muscogee (Creek) culture first hand and learn the history of the MCN and its citizens.



OKMULGEE, Okla. — My name is Kyla McKown and I am one of Mvsko Media's newest reporters for the *Muscogee Nation News*.

I recently graduated from the great, Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., with my Bachelor's of Science in multimedia journalism.

As a freshman at OSU I was enrolled as a pre-med student before quickly realizing I was more interested in writing. I have always loved to write and I loved to read the newspaper and watch the news, so I thought what better degree to pursue than broadcast journalism.

From freshman year throughout the next three and a half years I became more and more passionate about broadcast journalism and all of the aspects of the career.

Throughout my four years at OSU, I wrote for the school newspaper, *The Daily O'Collegian*, as the city council and research reporter. That is when my love and interest for print stories started to grow.

After continuing to work for the newspaper, I interned in the summer of 2011 at KREK in Bristow, Okla., as a radio broadcast intern. I enjoyed getting to experience a different side of journalism by producing news segments.



The following summer, I interned at KOTV News Channel Six in Tulsa. Aside from my college courses, this has been to date the most influential experience I have had in journalism. Being able to work side-by-side with the reporters and producers allowed me to get the real-life feel of a newsroom.

I believe most of my passion and interest for journalism and news stems from watching the news and reading the paper with my mother and grandmother every day. I am also the type of person to want to know everything, so this career suits me perfectly.

Now that I have graduated and left Stillwater, I am back to my hometown of Kellyville, Okla., where I enjoy time with my family, dogs and horses. I look forward to working as one of the newest MNN reporters, covering stories of all different topics.

I started working for the MNN in August 2013. This is a great opportunity for myself because I am not only able to pursue my career and passion in journalism but also able to stay close to my roots as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

I also look forward to the opportunity to broaden my knowledge of the tribal history and experience MCN culture and government first-hand.



## ATTN: -MUSCOGEE VETERANS- MOTORCYCLE RIDERS

**S**ituation: Yearly Veterans motorcycle ride is approaching.

**M**ission: Veteran motorcyclists will dine and watch movie at Admiral Twin Drive-In.

**E**xecution: Veteran motorcyclists and 1 guest riding with veteran will:

1. Assemble at MCN Veterans building (VASO) at 1400 on FRIDAY, 4 OCT 13.
2. Group will depart VASO at 1500 and proceed to the restaurant - Ron's Hamburgers, 4909 S. Peoria Avenue (2 blocks north of I-44) Tulsa, OK.
3. At 1730 group will depart restaurant and proceed to the Admiral Twin Drive-In, 7355 E. Easton St, Tulsa, OK.
4. Between 2200 and 2300 group will depart Drive-In theater and travel back to VASO.
5. Rain Dates: FRIDAY 11 OCT 13 or FRIDAY 18 OCT 13; if rain chance is 30% or more rain dates will be in effect.

**A**dministrative: VASO will pay for dinner and admission to movie for veteran and 1 guest.

1. Veteran must be Muscogee (Creek) citizen.
2. Veteran allowed 1 guest and guest must be on motorcycle with veteran.
3. Refreshments at Drive-In theater will be responsibility of veteran.
4. VASO's company car will be trace vehicle.
5. Veterans must bring their vest; VASO will transport vests in car.
6. Vest must be worn at restaurant and Drive-In theater.

**C**ommunication: Muscogee Veterans please call Ken Davis or Shawn Taryole by Thursday, 1700, 3 Oct 13 to register for the event at phone numbers: (918) 732-7739 or (918) 732-7745.



# Family Violence Prevention Program holds women's self-defense class



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
Norman Police Officers, Bob Moore and Marcus Savage, teach the My Body, My Life curriculum Aug. 21 to a class of police officers and Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

## My Body, My Life teaches sexual assault awareness and self-defense

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Fifty percent of all rape victims are under the age of 18. My Body, My Life women's empowerment program developers, Sergeant Bob Moore and Master Police Officer Marcus Savage of the Norman Police Department, came to Okmulgee to certify Muscogee (Creek) citizens and law enforcement officers from the area, to teach the importance of speaking out about sexual assault and domestic abuse to women and teenagers. Mitzi Pope, Youth Advocate for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program, coordinated with the My Body, My Life instructors to bring the curriculum to the Green Country Technology Center for the three-day Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training, known as CLEET, a 24-hour credit course. The instructor course allows those who attend to teach My Body, My Life classes to 7-12th grade female students, college students, on up to adult women in their 90s. The program has also been taught to the blind and the deaf. The event, which was free to everyone, was held Aug. 20-22 from 8:15 a.m. - 5 p.m. The course was specifically aimed toward law enforcement around the area including two MCN Lighthouse police officers. The course focuses on the fact that sexual assault and domestic abuse victims should not be ashamed of what has happened to them and should tell someone about this abuse. The class presents sexual assault statistics while teaching attendees self-defense mechanisms and how to be aware of their surroundings. Moore, the creator of My Body, My Life, has worked for the Norman Police Department for 30 years, is a licensed counselor and has been a self-defense instructor for 35 years. He has also taught other police officers defensive-tactics for the State

of Oklahoma for the last 25 years. Moore said teaching the importance of awareness, safety and self-defense has been a passion of his for sometime. "I have three daughters. Unfortunately I can't protect them 24 hours a day," Moore said. "That's why I do this." One of the most important things to remember from the program is, "Say no; walk away; report it". Although Oklahoma may seem to be one of the safer states, Moore had some alarming statistics. "In this nation, Oklahoma is number four in girls that are taken," Moore said. "We want to stop that. The number one way to get in contact with these girls is through the Internet." He said because of the lack of reporting rape and assault cases, with nearly 50-70 percent going unreported, the actual statistics aren't known. However, 80 to 95 percent of cases are usually date or acquaintance rape. The other 5 to 10 percent are violent. Moore said the program's main objective, which focuses on empowering women, is to increase the levels of reporting to stop these violent and nonviolent offenders. "If I do my job right, I get a huge number of increase in reporting even minor cases, reports at all. I could actually hurt myself if someone just looks at the statistics and numbers without looking into the program," Moore said. He said an increase in reports is what they want. They don't want these women to be afraid. Pope, who coordinated the event, became a certified instructor of the program about two years ago. She not only believes the program is for a good cause but also sees the passion these men have for getting the word out to women across the state. "The officers are all about empowering women and both officers really have been an inspiration to me," Pope said. "To see officers that passionate about protecting women and them having their own young daughters, bringing them up to be safe and just know what to look out for."

Another MCN employee and citizen saw this program as a huge opportunity for the tribe. Denise Henry, has been a police officer for 14 years. She has worked the last two years as an MCN Lighthouse Police Officer. She said it's important for her to be certified to teach this program to tribal citizens because as a police officer, she has seen a larger proportion of domestic and sexual violence crimes against Native American women than any other ethnic group. "I think it's more violent among tribal women in the fact it goes unreported," Henry said. "The aggressor becomes more brave and the violence becomes greater because there is no fear of repercussions." She also said that if more tribal women talk with tribal victims, there is a greater chance to Native women and reduce these crimes. "The Native women aren't brought up a lot of times in some homes where they can voice their opinion, other than to family and friends," Henry said. "They don't have ability or knowledge that they can report it." Lighthouse plans to start next month putting on classes to spread awareness throughout the MCN through outlets like: women's programs and advocates, schools in the district and domestic and sexual assault victims. Last year, My Body, My Life was able to reach out to more than 1,000 children in the Norman school district alone. A few weeks ago, the program was honored with a National School Safety award in Las Vegas. Anyone can become certified to teach the program to women and children. However, Moore said it's important to run background checks on those who would like to go through the class or become an instructor because the last thing they want is to teach a predator how these teenagers and women defend themselves mentally and physically. For more information on how to become a certified My Body, My Life instructor, visit [www.mybodymylife.net](http://www.mybodymylife.net).

## MCN citizen attends D.C. conference



Photo Submission  
U.S. Department of Agriculture Acting Deputy Agricultural Secretary Michael Scuse (center) with Native American Future Farmers of America students Hannah Nichols (left), citizen of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jessica Wahnee.

## Wahnee represents Morris FFA at leadership conference

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Jessica Wahnee, a junior at Morris Public Schools recently took part in a conference held by the U.S. Department of Agriculture held July 16-21. Wahnee was one of two Native Americans selected to attend The Future Farmers of America, Washington Leadership Conference out of more than 300 students. "It was exciting," Wahnee said. "I was nominated to go and when I was selected, I was very happy. It was an honor going." During her trip, she participated in meetings intended to raise awareness of rural issues and engage in advocacy for Native American youth in agricultural education. Wahnee was also taught how to implement plans for her community and to facilitate more community involvement. "We were all taught on what we needed to do to better help our communities," she said. "What I feel that helped me was to get better as a leader. To be able to voice my concerns on what is going on and what we can do to help our situations in our communities." Wahnee started with the FFA

because her family members had done the same thing before her. "I started when I was an eighth grader," Wahnee said. "My brother and my mother were both in FFA. I wanted to get into it and show animals like they did. For me, I show pigs at all of our events." Her father, Steve Wahnee, expressed his excitement for his daughter attendance at this conference. "I remember getting the email saying that she had been selected," Steve Wahnee said. "Like her, I was very excited for her being able to go. I want her to be able to go and enjoy what the FFA can do for her. Plus this will also get her ready for college, as it is a great thing to put on her resume. This worked out really well" Wahnee's plan is to help organize and keep the community clean. "I want our FFA to be able to organize and clean up our community," Jessica Wahnee said. "I am going to talk to our FFA president to see if we can get a plan going for more ways to recycle. I would hope if this plan is a success that other nearby communities will adopt a similar way to recycle." Jessica Wahnee lives in Morris, Okla., and her parents are Steve and Lisa Wahnee.

## MCN athlete competes in Deaflympics



MNN/Gerald Wofford  
Paul Bear with his mother Karen Bear at the 39th Mvskoke Nation Festival.

## Bear represents MCN in Bulgaria

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

SAPULPA, Okla. — When Paul Bear was a child, he always dreamed of competing in the Olympics and this summer he got his wish. Bear qualified for the Deaflympics in Sofia, Bulgaria to represent the U.S. Track and Field team. The event mirrors the Olympic Games but is for athletes with hearing disabilities who compete to represent their countries. The event took place July 26-Aug. 4. Bear competed in the 100 and 200-meter races. He planned to run in the 4x100 relay race but was not able due to a knee injury. Bear did not place in any of the events he was in but he was excited about the opportunity. "He liked it but he wished his knee was better," said his mother Karen. Bear played football for Sapul-

pa and The School for the Deaf his junior year. Bear was 6-years-old when his hearing became impaired to the point where doctors told Karen that hearing aids would not help. The year when they received the news was especially tough on the family. Carolyn Tiger, Bear's grandmother had also become ill and passed on. Karen recalls later that year when her son approached her and asked " 'what's it like to hear?' It just brought tears to my eyes," she said. Whether Bear has had to qualify for a starting lineup or excel in the classroom, he has always given it his best. Bear will attend college in New York this fall and is considering training to qualify for the next Deaflympics. "He may try in four years, but right now he just wants to concentrate on school. I'm just glad to see him compete like this. I'm glad he has the heart to do this," Karen Bear said.



## Head Start teaches life skills to pre-school children



MNN/Gary Fife  
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start Program serves the families of 289 children, providing them with an introduction to schools and society.

### Program prepares children to enter public schools, society

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Most lunchtime visitors and employees of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation have seen the fenced playground full of children enjoying some recreation on the swings and slides on the eastern edge of the tribal complex.

They’re some of the kids involved in the tribe’s effort to provide an early introduction, a ‘head start’ on their long educational journey.

A total of 289 children attend Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start to take advantage of those offerings in the seven tribal community Head Start centers and four shared collaborative facilities scattered throughout the MCN jurisdiction.

For nearly five decades, Head Start has been a staple of the American educational system, providing low-income children with educational opportunities that help prepare them for entrance into the public school system.

Norma Cloud is supervisor of the Okmulgee center. It’s her job to keep three classrooms full of three and four-year-olds learning the basics of what they’ll need when they begin their public school education and along with a bit of tribal culture.

“Our mission statement at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start program is to ensure a quality learning experience through teamwork with families, communities and staff on a continued basis.”

“We’ll teach them the alphabet and the ‘one-two-threes’ and we also teach them the Creek language because we have our own Creek language bowl with other Head Starts. This year I want to bring home the plaque.”

Eligibility guidelines call for the program to serve low-income families. Cloud says, that includes those with disabilities. Without Head Start, Cloud felt these children would be at a distinct educational disadvantage.

“I just feel that if they don’t come to Head Start; they just go to public school; they’re going in a place that...they’re going to be scared. Here, you’ll learn the fundamentals of everything and then when you go into public school you know what situation you’re going to be in. You know what’s going

to come and you’re going to be prepared. Well, if you’re not at a Head Start and you just go straight to public school; its chaos right there. There’s no structure. Head Start, that’s what we need, Head Start.”

Harold Anderson is a teacher with Head Start. It’s his job to help prepare his students for the coming years in public school systems. As the children went about their rowdy breakfast cleanup around him, he said he thinks these kids would be in trouble without the head start they get with this program.

“They would be in a dire situation where they would be behind in every aspect of their life. Like, we try to do building relationships. We try to get them ready to get along with other kids. We try to get them to just be better in society as a whole. That’s our main objective here at Head Start to get them ready to go into main society.”

Holly Stidman, a teacher aide is a parent who has had children take part in Head Start. Her kids are now in public school and she believes the program gave them an advantage.

“Once my children started the Head Start they had no clue of their alphabet and everything. Once they had started kindergarten, they already knew their alphabet; they could write their name; they knew their shapes and their colors. In some instances, it was more advanced than the other children that didn’t.”

Tracey Gardner was volunteering also, trying to keep an energetic group of four-year-olds focused on their lessons. She pointed out that the benefits of Head Start go beyond curriculum and give children social skills as well.

“They learn how to play with other kids instead of playing by themselves. They get out of the house and get to experience new things, learn about new things, learn their ‘A-B-Cs,’ which is very important. They get to learn different words and what they mean, which most kids don’t know.”

The MCN Head Start program functions on an annual budget of \$2.1 million from federal and tribal sources. It would be one of the programs impacted by the planned federal sequestration cutbacks.

To demonstrate to Congress and other governmental officials, Cloud said, they joined in a national effort Aug. 19, placing 54 empty chairs on their lawn to show what would happen if funding for Head Start was cut.

## Creek student interns in physics and astronomy program



Photo Submission  
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Isabel Coronado (center) attended a summer internship program at Texas A&M University-Commerce in Commerce, Texas, focusing on astronomy and physics. Eight students, including Coronado, from community colleges around the country were selected to participate in the program.

### Isabel Coronado one of eight students selected for science research opportunity

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Local college student, Isabel Coronado, attended a summer internship program at Texas A&M University-Commerce in Commerce, Texas. The research training opportunity focused on subject matter in physics and astronomy.

Eight students, including Coronado, from community colleges around the country were selected to participate in the program.

Coronado, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, applied for the program because of her interest in theoretical physics. She believes that she was picked for several reasons including: her age, ethnicity, gender and the fact that she is fluent in Spanish.

The ten-week internship lasted from June 3 - Aug. 9. During that time, students collaborated on research projects with faculty, graduate students and other interns.

Students were able to attend field trips to the McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis, Texas and Texas Instruments in Dallas. The interns also had remote access to the Southeastern Association for Research in Astronomy telescope in Tucson, Ariz.

When she applied, Coronado asked to be assigned to a topic in theoretical physics. She was designated to study neutron stars, which are stars made of mostly neutrons. Coronado explained that a regular star will explode and either becomes a neutron star or a black hole. Neutron stars are about the size of a city but are very dense for their size.

Coronado also studied a hypothesis created by Albert Einstein regarding gravitational waves. His theory de-

scribes this phenomenon as similar to an electromagnetic wave, only it is made of gravity.

During her research, Coronado and her lab partner worked on computer modules and equations since gravitational waves are based on theory alone and cannot technically be observed.

While at the program, Coronado said the diversity amongst the group was immense.

“The students came from all over. One girl came from Oregon, others from Illinois and Miami, so it was really diverse,” said Coronado. “My mentors were from China and England. All the mentors were from different places. It was really cool.”

She said her contributions to the group were a different perspective and her originality.

“I don’t really have a background in physics, so being there made me want to learn more and ask a lot of questions. They really appreciated that,” Coronado said.

The favorite part of the internship for Coronado was when they would meet every Friday to order food and have presentations. They would also recap the week and discuss current topics in physics and astronomy.

Though Coronado enjoys physics as a hobby, she wants to seek a profession in the medical field. The 17-year-old will start her first year of nursing school at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee in September. She is pursuing her associate degree in nursing and obtaining her license as a registered nurse.

She was recently informed that she is a recipient of the Indian Health Services scholarship. The IHS scholarship provides financial aid including tuition, fees and expenses for all of the awardees. Recipients are then required to fulfill a minimum two-year

service commitment to an Indian health facility. Coronado wants to stay close to home and serve her community to fulfill that obligation.

“I want to work in the clinics or maybe in the hospital that was just bought. I definitely want it to be here in Okmulgee,” Coronado said.

According to Coronado, she is the first recipient of the IHS scholarship to attend the nursing program at OSU-IT.

Coronado plans to continue her education to obtain her master’s degree. She is not positive on what field of nursing she would like to go into yet but says she is open to any option. Her interests currently are in attending medical school or becoming a nurse anesthetist.

In the future, Coronado hopes to pursue a dream job with Nurses Without Borders.

“I would like to go to foreign countries. That’s always been a big dream of mine,” she said. “I think it would be so awesome to go to different countries and help out.”

In discussing what inspired her to seek an education, Coronado thinks of her mother.

“My mom has been the one, through all of these accomplishments, she has been the one pushing me and helping me with everything. She has pretty much been my rock,” said Coronado.

Coronado’s mother, MCN Community Research and Development Manager Sarai Geary, said that her daughter has grown up going to classes with her and watching her complete her education. Geary says that she is proud of her daughter’s accomplishments.

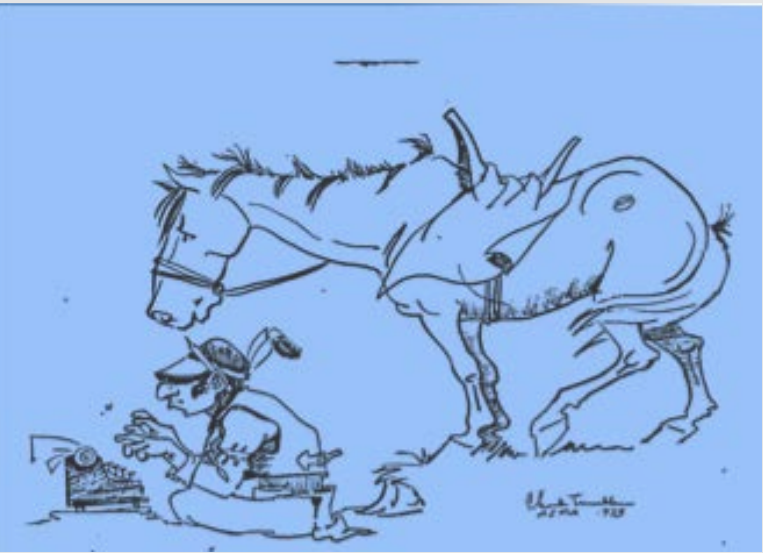
“I tried to teach her that if you want to do something you just have to set your mind to it and do it,” Geary said.

Coronado’s parents are Sarai Geary and Carlos Coronado. She is a member of the Wind Clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.



# Emvpunyv

## 'One who tells a story'



## Feds, booze, Brady Street and Council House artifacts

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The first meeting of the new White House Council on Native Affairs took place July 29 with no tribal leaders taking part according to Indian Country Today Media Network. This new council is supposed to underline President Barack Obama’s commitment to Indians.

But without Indian input, how can it be more than a public relations razzle-dazzle? Even the public statement never mentions any tribal participation.

Sometimes a reporter has to include the bad stuff in order to keep some credibility.

Here’s a bit of the bad stuff we wish wouldn’t have happened.

In Santa Fe, N.M., Cherokee actor Wes Studi was arrested late July for aggravated drunken driving.

According to a criminal complaint, 66-year-old Studi was stopped in a car with the two front tires blown out. He appeared to be extremely intoxicated.

In the exchange with police captured on video, Studi got pretty nasty and used some racial epithets. Studi has since apologized and according to news reports, Studi said the officers “remained very professional.”

Comments on his Facebook page are very forgiving, supportive and encouraging.

I tend to feel the same way. I kept a watch on how my colleagues in the Indian media would treat the story and the vast majority of them ignored it.

Folks, we can’t and shouldn’t hide from the bad stuff. I always thought, if you close your eyes to the negative in life, then it sure makes it easier for someone to knock you on your butt.

Good luck, Wes, we’re behind you.

In another alcohol-focused story, voters on South Dakota’s Pine Ridge Indian Reservation have approved alcohol sales there.

The Oglala Lakota tribe voted to end prohibition. They have plans to use the bucks formerly going to white-owned liquor stores for education and treatment programs for their people.

*"Let us rename Brady Street and call it Locvpokv (lo-juh/boguh) Street." — J.D. Colbert*

It has been a topic of hot debate for some time in Indian Country whether alcohol should be sold and controlled by a tribe.

Critics of the ballot measure blame booze for the worst things: highest rates of domestic abuse, suicide, infant mortality, unemployment and violent crime in Indian Country.

But opponents ask why continue to send millions of dollars to off-rez dealers and make them rich off the suffering of Indian people.

A local AIM-type group says the election was flawed.

Those who abuse alcohol will continue to do so, but now the tribe should have some resource to fight back. Hoka-hey! (How’s your Lakota?)

Did you watch the battle in Tulsa over the name of the Brady District?

It was a huge flap over changing the name of the artsy place from that of a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Aug 15, I saw a letter to the editor in the Tulsa World from J.D. Colbert from our Economic Development department and he had a great idea. Here’s part of what he wrote:

“Let us rename Brady Street and call it Locvpokv (lo-juh/boguh) Street. In doing so, we will honor and remember the true founders of Tulsa, the Locvpokv Tribal Town of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.”

Tulsa was founded in the 1830s and was known for decades as Tulsay-Locvpokv. Locvpokv was a daughter town of "Tulasi."

In the end, the Tulsa City Council wimped out and kept 'Brady,' only it's now named after Mathew Brady, the famous Civil War photographer, who never set foot in Tulsa.

Hey, Oklahoma, “Native America,” remember us?

A deal has been made to keep the artifacts of the Creek Council House Collection here in Creek country where it belongs, among Mvskoke Etlwv.

Aug. 15, Creek officials and the council house association announced an agreement.

Nobody was talking specifics then, but what the heck?

It sure beats the loss of tangible pieces of our tribal history to who-knows-who in some auction.

Way to go folks, that sure is good news.

## Sometimes the underdog comes out on top



Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

*I wanted to bring something back from the past. This article was the first one I had written and it was an honor to have the Muscogee Nation News publish it for me. So I felt like this would be a good time to republish it for this edition.*  
-Mvto

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In today’s world, we always have an underdog. Whether it is in sports, politics or life, there will always be one. To some people who do not know what an underdog is (no, it’s not the fictional superhero canine), an underdog is a team or a person who ends up being victorious despite the odds being against them.

An example in politics is John F. Kennedy’s defeat of Richard Nixon in the 1960 presidential election. In the sports world, the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team beat the favored Russians by a score of 4-3. Historically, many people have been dubbed underdogs and Hollywood has portrayed this unique role in numerous films throughout

the decades.

The 1983 film, *Hoosiers* is a classic tale of redemption that features a volatile coach and a former star player-turned alcoholic who led a small town basketball team on an improbable run to the Indiana high school championship game. *Rudy* a movie based on one student’s dream to play football at Notre Dame reveals an underdog’s passion to let nothing stop him from realizing his ambitions and eventually playing for the final seconds of a game in his senior year.

The 2007 box office hit, *300* was a ferocious retelling of the ancient Battle of Thermopylae, in which King Leonidas and 300 Spartans fought to the death against Xerxes and his massive Persian army. Facing impossible odds, their valor and sacrifice inspired all of Greece to unite against its Persian enemy.

Although the Spartans fiercely battled the Persians, the overwhelming mass of their enemies eventually defeated them.

While the army of 300 Spartans displayed incredible heroism, I would also like to discuss another group of 300 men. These men, with their faith in the Lord, would ultimately go to battle and conquer a powerful army. These men, the Israelites, were led by a man whose name was Gideon. Gideon was an Israelite who was being held captive by the Midians. Out of fear, he and the rest of the Israelites cried out and prayed for

someone to deliver them from their captors.

One day, the Lord (Hesaketvmese) sent an angel (Hvlweste) to Gideon and delivered his instructions. Initially, Gideon was skeptical of this angel and asked him to prove his abilities. Gideon asked if the Lord could make the fleece that he set on the ground wet with dew and the ground all around it to be dry. The Lord performed this task for Gideon. Gideon then asked him to make only the ground wet with dew and leave the fleece dry. Gideon was soon amazed and realized the Lord would be able to help him.

Gideon was going to war against the Midians with 22,000 soldiers. The Lord told Gideon that there were too many soldiers and that his army would have to be reduced to only 300 men. With 300 soldiers and the Lord’s strength, Gideon was able to defeat the Midians in awe-inspiring combat.

These men, as underdogs, were able to go to war with a powerful army and not only defeat them, but chased them out of the country. A lot of people today think underdogs are weaker or smaller than their opposition. In most situations, underdogs have bigger hearts than the rivals they are going against.

During the next sporting event, election or movie that features an underdog, do not underestimate that person or team. Many times, the underdog will surprise his critics and overcome all doubt.

## MCN Office of Environmental Services



MNN/Sterling Cosper

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Environmental Services MCN Recycling Center.

Del Beaver  
MCN Environmental Services Manager

Hensci! My name is Del Beaver and I am the manager of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Environmental Services. We are located in the Housing Authority building and provide an array of services for the tribe and tribal members. The environmental world is ever changing and can be quite challenging to keep up with the latest technology, regulations and headlines. It seems every decade has its own environmental issue that leads to change, whether through laws or general attitude.

In the 1960s, Rachel Carson’s book *Silent Spring* shed light on the dangers of chemical pesticides. The ’70s had events like Love Canal, Three Mile Island and issues like acid rain. Catastrophic incidents occurred in the ’80s in Bhopal, India and Chernobyl, saw events like the Exxon Valdez oil spill and included the discovery of a hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica. The ’90s saw the rise in awareness of global warming, greenhouse gases and urban sprawl. The 2000s saw a rise in the power of change through

the consumer markets including: hybrid vehicles, Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) and renewable energy alternatives. The 2000s also saw extreme weather patterns and environmental lexicon imbedded into our daily vocabulary like “carbon footprint” and “going green.” Those issues over the past 50 years have not gone away but have rather been superseded by the topic de jour. We are a third of the way through the 2010s and have experienced tornados, earthquakes, flooding, droughts and wildfires all in one year!

These events are out of our control and have faced speculation as to whether or not mankind had some affect as to their severity and frequency. What we can control are our daily decisions, which will affect not only our life but also our children’s lives, our grandchildren’s lives and our great-grandchildren’s lives. Little changes can make a difference, such as deciding to recycle plastic bottles, aluminum cans, plastic bags from Wal-Mart or making sure all lights are turned off before you leave

your home. The second step can be a bit more challenging. This could include: recycling all your cardboard, newspapers and magazines, taking reusable grocery bags with you to the store or carpooling. The third step might be the decision to replace all your lighting at your house with CFL or LED lighting, composting your food waste, using rain barrels to water your garden, installing low flow shower heads, replacing your windows with energy efficient windows or adding more insulation to your attic.

Beginning your lifestyle change and progressing in your conservation efforts takes an initial financial investment. However, you are investing in yourself, your family and future generations. The change will pay both monetary and exemplary dividends. As each step is taken, it is important to explain the benefits of these decisions to the next generation. If we plant the seed of environmental responsibility now, our children and our children’s children will be able to feast from the fruits of our labor.



New food distribution center addressed during Council session



MNN/Kyla McKown  
A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Aug. 24 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Legislation addressed for new travel plaza, busses for tribal transport and more

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. – A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Aug. 24 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 13-104 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer regarding mitigation requirements arising from the proposed Trussville-Hewitt Sports Complex in Jefferson County, Ala. Rep. Eddie LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 13-105 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and contractor and general conditions of the contract for construction between the Nation and Sooner Saferooms, for construction of a fleet wash bay and detail shop for the Nation's Fleet Management Department. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 13-106 Authorizing principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and contractor and general conditions of the contract for construction between the Nation and Sooner Saferooms Inc. for the Nation's WIC Building Project. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 13-107 Approving HIPP privacy policies and procedures of the Gaming Operations Authority Board pursuant to MCN Code Annotated Title 21, Section 4-103.B.2. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 13-108 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation and Okfuskee County for improvements to the Micawber Road Project. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 13-109 Confirming the nomination of Wilma Berryhill to serve on the MCN Election Board. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

- TR 13-110 Approving the absentee counters for the 2013 National Council primary and general elections. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 13-111 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer and assignment of Water Storage Agreement No. DACW56-10-WS-003 between the Department of the Army and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department Fountainhead Golf Course for originally authorized storage in Eufaula Lake, Okla. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 13-112 Authorizing the principal chief to execute and equitable sharing agreement and certification between the Nation and the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of the Treasury for participation in the Federal Equitable Sharing Program. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 13-113 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and architect with 1Architecture for all the architectural and basic structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing design services for the Nation's new WIC Program building. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-1 with Rep. Kara Medina voting against it.
- NCA 13-170 Authorizing the donation of \$20,900 to the Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Indian Baptist Association. Reps. Thomas Yahola and Sam Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 13-178 Authorizing the expenditure of \$711,653 for the construction of a new MCN Tribal Transit building. Reps. Lena Wind and LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 13-184 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$689.50 to a MCN college student. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-4 with Reps. Pete Beaver, Greene, Hill and Hufft voting against it.
- NCA 13-186 Repealing Chapter 4 of Title 20 entitled, "air conditioners and fans." Rep. Pearl Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 13-187 Amending MCNCA Title 7, Section 2-110 to increase the stipend of the Citizenship Board. Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0 with Yahola abstaining.
- NCA 13-193 Amend-

- ing Title 7, Section 4-109 entitled, "Citizenship enrollment cards and full citizen enrollment cards". LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 13-195 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 20 percent for the MCN Community Finance Department. Rep. Keeper Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
  - NCA 13-196 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 20 percent for the MCN Realty Department. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
  - NCA 13-197 Authorizing a donation of \$5,000 for the 17th annual Euchee Heritage Festival. Hufft and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
  - NCA 13-198 Authorizing a donation of \$42,297 to Wiyo Publishing Company. Randolph and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
  - NCA 13-199 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$5,000 for tribal membership dues to the Native American Finance Officers Association. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
  - NCA 13-200 Approving and authorizing the principal chief to execute and file the articles of organization with the Office of the Secretary of the Nation to form One Fire Holding Company LLC under the MCN Limited Liability Company Act and approving the operating agreement for One Fire Holding Company LLC. Rep. Adam Jones III sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
  - NCA 13-201 Authorizing the expenditure of \$55,080 for the purchase of the new passenger buses for the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
  - NCA 13-203 Authorizing the expenditure of \$800,000 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development block grant awarded to the MCN for a new food distribution center to be located in Coweta, Okla. Greene and Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
  - NCA 13-204 Appropriating \$200,000 for a Coweta food distribution center to be located in Coweta, Okla. Greene and Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- Johnson was absent.

Stone Blade chef featured on Oklahoma television



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Elizabeth Kaler with Stone Blade Restaurant appeared on KSBI Oklahoma City Channel 52 for a cooking demonstration.

Muscogee (Creek) chef represents MCN-owned restaurant

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — One of Muscogee (Creek) Nation's own and chef at the Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar, located at the Okmulgee Golf Club, has been selected to show off her skills for the Oklahoma City area.

Elizabeth Kaler has been the chef at the restaurant since before the MCN purchased the golf club May 10, 2012. She graduated in 2009 from the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology School of Culinary Arts.

And as far as she knows, she is the only Muscogee (Creek) chef in the area.

She said the culinary school she attended here in Okmulgee is full of talented instructors from all over the world and she was able to learn so much.

Sysco, one of Stone Blade's vendors, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Restaurant Association, chose Kaler as one of six to appear on KSBI Oklahoma City Channel 52 for a cooking demonstration.

Kaler said being chosen for the cooking segment is an honor and sees it as an opportunity.

"It's a great way to promote the restaurant and what we've been doing here and all the things we plan to do in the future," she said.

The ORA has asked her to make two oriental inspired dishes. She will be cooking Asian-style calamari served with a salad with toasted sesame seed vinaigrette and soy-seared salmon with edamame succotash.

These dishes will be available the month of September at the restaurant as a feature.

Second annual Mvskoke Film Festival set for November

Call for Native American films

Media Release

JENKS, Okla. — Entries for the 2013 Mvskoke Film Festival are being accepted through Oct. 17.

The festival will showcase Native American films and will be held Nov. 8-9 at Riverwalk Movies, located at 300 Riverwalk Terrace in Jenks.

"We are excited that this is our second film festival. We had a great turnout last year; people really enjoyed it and we want to continue it," said Gerald Wofford, coordinator of the event.

The festival will have five categories including: documentary, feature, animation, music video and comedy.

There will be student categories for college and high school

Kaler calls her style of food "upscale rustic" and features Regional American Cuisine.

"I like to keep it in the people's comfort zone but make it a little more upscale and modern," Kaler said.

She also mentioned Stone Blade is not your "run-of-the-mill" restaurant and features chef-quality food right here in Okmulgee.

The menu changes seasonally at Stone Blade. The fall and winter menu will come out Oct. 1. She said there are always off-the-menu features, which change weekly and are posted on their Facebook page, as well as the menu.

"You get the best quality, keeps prices down, keeps customers prices down and keeps the foods fresh and changes it up," Kaler said. "I have a lot of restaurants I love to go to but I know the menu by heart and I know most likely it will always be the same."

Another reason to come out to the restaurant is for karaoke and half-price appetizers every Friday night.

She also plans to start Sunday brunch like the golf course restaurant had years ago.

The restaurant is open to the public. The hours of operation are Monday - Thursday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The cooking demonstration, taped Aug. 28, aired the following week on Oklahoma City Channel 52 KSBI.

The video will also be available online at: [www.wheretoeatinok.com](http://www.wheretoeatinok.com). For the restaurant and bar menu, as well as featured meals, visit the Facebook page at: [www.Facebook.com/Stone-Blade-Restaurant-and-Bar](http://www.Facebook.com/Stone-Blade-Restaurant-and-Bar).

students, said Wofford.

A scholarship is also being created for both student categories and the amount will be announced at a later date.

An awards banquet will be held the evening of Nov. 9 at Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks.

To submit a film, individuals must be one-quarter Native American and a member of a federally recognized tribe.

A separate contest containing films produced with Native American themes, but not produced by Native Americans will also be accepted.

A \$35 entry fee is also required. Entries must be submitted in DVD format. Entry forms will be available at: [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov) beginning in September. For more information about the festival and awards banquet, contact Gerald Wofford at: 918-732-7635.



This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming



# LAST DAY OF SUMMER PARTY

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# COMMUNITY CALENDER

## MVSKOKE LANGUAGE CLASSES STARTING AUG. 27

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Department will start hosting language classes Aug. 27 every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 - 1 p.m. at the MCN Housing Administration Building conference rooms on the 1st or 2nd floor.

For more information call: 918-732-7724.

## MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE OPEN HOUSE SET FOR SEPT. 4

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office is holding an open house Sept. 4 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 333 S. Washita, OK.

The event will feature free hamburgers and hotdogs, information boots and drawings every 30 minutes.

For more information Contact the office by phone at: 405-452-1100 or 405-452-1102 or by email at: dtiger@mcn-nsn.gov or natashah@mcn-nsn.gov

## MORRIS INDIAN COMMUNITY OFFICER ELECTION SET FOR SEPT. 5

MORRIS, Okla. — The Morris Indian Community Officer election is set for 7 p.m., Sept. 5 during the community meeting at Trinity Baptist Church 839 W. Ozark St., Morris, OK.

For more information call Lizanne Holata at: 918-304-4799.

## INDIAN TACO SALE SET FOR SEPT. 7

TULSA, Okla. — An Indian taco sale is set for Sept. 7 from 11 a.m. 3 p.m. at Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church at 8815 E. 101 St., Tulsa, OK.

Tacos are \$7 and include tea.

## GROCERY BINGO SET FOR SEPT. 7

DEWAR, Okla. — Arbeka Ceremonial Ground is hosting Grocery Bingo Sept. 7 at the Dewar Community Center.

The food sale is a 12 p.m. and bingo starts at 2 p.m.

## INDIAN TACO SALE SET FOR SEPT. 14

COWETA, Okla. — An Indian taco sale is set for Sept. 14 from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Koweta Indian Community Center in Coweta.

Cost will be \$7 for a taco and drink. For more information contact Shelly Billiot at: 918-279-1987.

## BRUSH ARBOR REVIVAL SET FOR SEPT. 16-21

MOUNDS, Okla. — Randall Indian Baptist Church is holding a Brush Arbor Revival at 6 p.m., Sept. 16-20 and 7 p.m., Sept. 21.

There will be preaching, Creek singing, youth testimonials and refreshments nightly.

For more information contact Tim Lowe at: 918-698-0184.

## TULSA CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY ELECTION SET FOR SEPT. 17

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community 2013 officer election is set for Sept. 17 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the TCIC Community Center located at 8611 S. Union, Tulsa, OK 74132.

Elections will be held for the following positions: board of directors vice chairperson and sergeant-at-arms and business board chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

For more information contact TCIC at: 918-298-2464.

## OKMULGEE INDIAN CELEBRATION SET FOR SEPT. 19-24

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services is holding the Ocmulgee Indian Celebration trip to Macon, Ga., scheduled Sept. 19-24.

Each individual is responsible for their submission to be registered for a drawing to win one of 50 available seats.

Those interested should submit their name, MCN roll and contact telephone number to the MCN Senior Services office by 5 p.m., Sept. 6.

For more information and/or to register contact Christy Carson at: 918-732-7765.

## DWIGHT MISSION ALUMNI REUNION SET FOR OCT. 5

MARBLE CITY, Okla. — A reunion for the alumni of Dwight Mission is set for Oct. 5 at the mission dining room.

Registration will be from 9 - 10 a.m. and the program begins at 10 a.m.

Bring your family, school picture and friends. For more information, contact Levada Smith-Wildcat at: 918-773-3096.

## INDIAN TACO CHAMPIONSHIP SET FOR OCT. 5

PAWHUSKA, Okla. — The 2013 National Indian Taco Championships has been set for Oct. 5 in downtown Pawhuska. Registration is due Aug. 31 for \$25 or Sept. 30 for \$50.

For more information or to enter contact the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce at: 918-287-1208 or email them at: Pawhuskachamber@sbcglobal.net. A Dance contest will also be held. Preliminaries start at 11 a.m. and finals will be announced some time before 4 p.m. No registration fee is required.

## SYMPOSIUM ON MUSKOGEEAN HISTORY SET FOR OCT. 10-11

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A symposium on Muskogean history and culture is set for Oct. 10-11 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex.

Renowned academic professionals will speak on the evidence and interpretation of their studies regarding Mvskoke civilization during the Mississippian Period up to the Pre-Removal Historic Period.

Everyone is invited to attend this event hosted by the MCN Department of Cultural Preservation.

## LEWIS-MARSHALL REUNION SET FOR NOV. 30

OKLAHOMA CITY — A Lewis and Mandy Marshall family reunion is set for Nov. 30. More information will be given monthly until finalized.

Family members are encouraged to submit their favorite cooking recipes so cookbooks can be made before the reunion.

For information contact Marsha at: 405-733-3578, regarding recipes contact Lydia Fish at: 405-629-5228.

## WETUMKA HEAD START ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Wetumpka Head Start Program is accepting applications for the 2013-2014 school years.

The facility is located at 333 S. Washita, Wetumka, OK and the hours of operation are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. For more information call: 405-452-1180.

## MFSI to host community screening Sept. 23

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. —

The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative in association with Participant Media and Active Voice, will host a community screening of 'A Place at the Table' in Okmulgee Sept. 23. The screening is part of Participant Media's "Take Your Place" Social Action Campaign, which uses the acclaimed documentary to inspire community conversations about hunger and obesity and get people involved in efforts to address this systemic problem.

The critically acclaimed documentary A Place at the Table, directed by Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush, examines the crisis of food security, hunger, obesity and food access.

The film will be screened at the Rowe Family Life Center, located at 302 S. Seminole St. in Okmulgee, OK, starting at 5:30 p.m. This event will include a nutritious dinner, a Q&A session, and the film.

If you are interested in attending the screening please RSVP to the MFSI main office at 918-756-5915, June Marshall at 918-752-6139, or Lynn Duke at 918-756-2701 by Sept. 20.

## 2013 California Muscogee (Creek) Association gathering set for Oct. 5

Media Release

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The 2013 annual Gathering of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association is set for Oct. 5 from 12 - 5 p.m. at the Native American United Methodist Church at 800 S. Lemon St., Anaheim, CA 92805.

Also, all Muscogee (Creek) citizens are encouraged by to update their citizenship cards to the updated format through the MCN Citizenship Department. For more information about the new card contact Citizenship at: 1-800-482-1979

This is a pot-luck event, so please bring plenty of food, desserts and drinks to share.

To volunteer or for more information contact Eli Grayson at: 760-534-1632.

# MCN officials speak at Indian Country Business Summit



Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberts

Rob Daugherty, Director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office speaks during the Indian Country Business Summit Aug. 20 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa, Okla.

## Chief Tiger, Will Lowe and Rob Daugherty speak at annual conference.

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

CATOOSA, Okla. — The seventh annual Indian Country Business Summit was held Aug. 19-20 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa.

The gathering welcomed key speakers in the Native American community and featured a trade show to showcase businesses interested in marketing their products and services to tribal, local, state and federal agencies.

The trade show and summit targets Indian-owned businesses in the Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas markets. Attendees included business representatives, leaders in the American Indian community as well as tribal, state and federal procurement officers.

Session speakers covered topics in social media, business consulting, tax issues and economical marketing. Keynote speakers included social media specialist and Emmy award winning journalist, Cindy Morrison and Native American Contractors Association CEO, Kevin Al-lis.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger spoke on the second day of the summit. Tiger emphasized keeping Indian money in Indian country to benefit the Indian people.

MCN Director of Tourism and Recreation, Will Lowe, and Director of the Tribal Employment Rights Office, Rob Daugherty, also gave presentations.

Cherokee Nation TERO Director and President of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma, John Overacker, said the summit helps create communication between tribes and businesses.

"The reason we are here is for networking for Indian-owned businesses to do business with each other. And then we invite

the different tribes to come in," said Overacker. "There's always certain niches or certain things that our vendors can actually give and provide certain products and services to these tribes."

As a board member, Overacker stated that the AICCO has different meetings year-round and will have its annual meeting coming up in December. He also is recommending that board members try to get out to meetings in the different chapters each quarter.

Overacker also expanded on the new direction for the AICCO. This will be the last year of the AICCO being banded with the ICBS. Both groups plan to go their separate ways so that they can accomplish new goals. One thing the AICCO would like to achieve is expansion around Oklahoma and become more inclusive of all areas.

"We're actually going to bounce around the state," Overacker said. "It's an exciting time. We're changing the name; we're changing a lot of the different outlooks."

The summit was projected to have as many as 50 booths for vendors during the trade show portion of the event. Vendors had a variety of products and services to offer.

Marketing Manager for Intertribal Software Consultants, DeAnna Moore, stated that the trade show helped reinforce their relationship with existing customers and gain contact with decision makers that develop into new clients.

Located in Durant, Okla., Intertribal Software Consultants offers a wide array of software and services including tech support, training and customized software.

"Any program that a tribe has, we can create a software for it. So the customization is very personal and we take care of our clients," said Moore.

According to the ICBS website, the next meeting has been scheduled for Aug. 26-27, 2014 in Norman, Okla.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION HOUSING DIVISION

COMMUNITY SHIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM


Amerind Risk Management Corporation

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Replacement cost for your home, scheduled and unscheduled personal property, liability and other structures



Eligible applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Citizens, residing within the state of Oklahoma and using the home as their principle place of residence.



For a Quote Call 800-482-1979 ext. 2500



2013 MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

PRIMARY ELECTION: SEPT. 21

GENERAL ELECTION: NOV. 2

Sam Alexander

National Council - Tulsa District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Eco (Deer)  
**Tribal Town:** Thlopthlocco Tribal Town  
**Church:** Montesoma Indian Baptist Church  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Thlopthlocco

**Education/Experience:** Graduated from Northeastern State College in 1969, graduate course hours at University of Oklahoma. Certified Public Accountant with 40 years in public accounting; owner of a small CPA practice in Wagoner. 15 years tribal experience including confirmed Tax Commissioner during tobacco compact litigation, Gaming Operations Authority Board Chair when bingo halls converted to casinos, and completing eighth year on the National Council.

**Platform:** Serving as Speaker of the National Council has been the crowning achievement of 20 years in this government. Before 2012 the tribal Nation was dysfunctional and mired in internal strife. The 2011 elections brought change necessary to restore communications between the branches of government, and appropriate adjustments were made. The goal is to continue developing strong working relationships from within. Commercial and governmental interest has been created in Tulsa and Washington, D.C., where none existed previously. Legislators are invited to the Principal Chief's cabinet meetings, and the Judicial Branch appears to be on the mend. Legislators routinely communicate with tribal employees when, in the past, such conversations were prohibited. Acquiring real estate like River Walk Crossing Shopping Center in three business days demonstrates working together efficiently. Establishing a lobbying presence in Washington, D.C. was long overdue. These winds of change restore life and establish a fresh confidence in the people.

Dode Barnett

National Council - Creek District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Hitchiti  
**Church:** Salt Creek United Methodist Church  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka  
**Education:** 1989 Graduate of Sapulpa High School/Attended Drury University from 1989-1991

**Platform:** It has been a privilege to serve the Creek District of our great Nation this past year. I have learned a great deal and would be humbled to continue to serve you. Eldercare, education, healthcare, language and cultural preservation (including continuing to support Hickory Ground), housing and the Nation making better financial investments are at the top of my list.

Some specific tasks I would work on if re-elected:  
Ask for better planning of Council spending, perhaps on a quarterly basis, build and diversify PROFITABLE businesses to increase the money available for tribal programs, seek to improve and simplify application process for tribal programs, work to foster development of a state approved Mvskoke language curriculum, continue to protect Mvskoke churches and ceremonial grounds and improve the grievance process for employees of tribal casinos. I would appreciate your vote, and prayer support, in the primary election. If you have further questions email dbarnett@mcn-nsn.gov or call 918-752-7959. Mvto!

Wilson Bear

National Council - McIntosh District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Eufaulagee - Canadian  
**Church:** Non- Denominational  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Eufaulagee  
**Education:** B.S. in Psychology/Sociology

**Platform:**  
Fair and Open Government: I believe that openness in government is the basis for accountability, improved decision making, public and employee trust, and informed participation. An open government provides the public and its employees' easy access to information that educates and informs. An open government listens to all the people affected by its actions. No one person or group affected by the tribe's actions has a greater right to be heard than anyone else. I will utilize the tribal citizens and employees as sources of creative ideas and effective solutions. I will work with the communities to clarify the authorities and responsibilities of the communities.

Economic Development: We have not utilized our resources to their full potential in the past. I will work hard to correct this in the future. Health: We need new clinics, new equipment and more health personnel. Social Services: I will help to improve the Nation's delivery system of Social Services to all citizens.

Joyce Deere

National Council - Muskogee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Kvssetv  
**Church:** Fife Indian United Methodist Church  
**Family:** Her parents are Napoleon B. Moore and Narcissa Wilson. She is the mother of Mark, Acee, and Taryn Allen; and Nana to Robert, Bailee, Sarah, and Blayne Allen, and Joseph Shoemake. She was married for 19 years to the late Lyle K. Deere.

**Experience:** She is a leader in her local church and has served the United Methodist Women of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church as President, Secretary, and Social Action Coordinator, and as a Member of the Committee on Nominations on the South Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team for UMW. She currently serves on the OIMC Council for Local Church Ministries. She retired from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, with 39 1/2 years of service. Her work experience includes positions in Tribal Government Services, the Office of Self-Determination Services, Real Estate Services, and as Staff Assistant to the Regional Director for the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office. She is an active member of the Muscogee Indian Community, serving as the Chair of the Activities and Cultural Committee, and also as a sponsor/advisor for the Explorer Program of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse.

**Platform:** Joyce is willing and able to continue a life of service. As a civil servant with the Federal Government, she was fortunate to work with and for our Indian people. Her career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs has provided her with the education and experience needed to continue helping Indian people, in particular, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. As a Representative of the National Council, she will be a proponent of fiscal control, economic development, and delivery of services; an advocate for preservation of our language, culture, traditional churches, and ceremonial grounds; and she will uphold the Constitution and defend our status as a sovereign Nation. Mvto!

Lizanne Holata

National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Hecete  
**Church:** Big Cussetah United Indian Methodist Church  
**Family:** My husband and I have been together for 33 years and are the parents of three and grandparents of five.

**Education/Experience:** I am a life long member of Big Cussetah United Indian Methodist, chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, board member of the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, chairperson for Morris Indian Community and community member of the Morris Community Action Team. I have an Associates in Applied Science.

**Platform:** I've worked for you in the Nation as staff and friend and have been the voice for many as I've helped guide you through the process for solutions to many problems. I am here to say I'll work hard for you through solid research and good communication. I appreciate your prayers and your vote. Mvto.

Mitch Jack

National Council - Okfuskee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Konovlke (Skunk)  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Alvpamv Mososwa (Alabama)

**Experience:** Dustin High School, College of the Muscogee Nation

**Platform:** I am dedicated to the care and responsibility to all generations of the Mvskoke people. Living in two worlds allows me to see the different needs of traditional & non-traditional citizens of the tribe. Being bi-lingual allows me the opportunity to communicate with our elders. If elected as your representative, I would like to focus on economic growth & development, health care, elder and youth outreach, tribal youth council for our children, etc. I feel that this is a full-time job and will be solely focused on working with and listening to the concerns of the Mvskoke people. I value everyone's input to strengthen our Nation. Mvto!

James Jennings

National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka  
**Church:** Second Baptist Church, Okmulgee  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka  
**Family:** I am one-half Creek, son of the late Pearline Day, Married to wife, Joyce for 45 years. We have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren. Resident of Okmulgee for 35 years.

**Education:** Graduate from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. United States Army Veteran- Military Policeman from 1967-1970 with an Honorable Discharge. Recently retired from Southern Millwork after 42 years employment as a Master cabinetmaker. National Council from 2006-2011. Served on Human Development Committee, Fact-finding Committee, Internal Affairs Committee, Ex-Affico Board of Regents of the College of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Missed one meeting during this period of service to the Nation.

**Platform:** 1. Educational opportunities: Higher Education, Vo-Tech, on the job training. 2. Seniors: Health Issues, Housing, Special needs. 3. Preserve our Language and Culture. Protect our Sovereignty. 4. Positive atmosphere so the Nation can move forward as a whole.

Keeper Johnson

National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Kvchv (Tiger)  
**Tribal Town:** Coweta  
**Church:** Belvin Baptist Church, Okmulgee  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Green Leaf  
**Family:** I am married to Martha Washee Johnson and have two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Education:** High School Graduate, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree

**Platform:** I continue to sponsor legislation for our Muscogee People for health and education. This is of utmost concern for our Muscogee People. My education includes a high school diploma from Fort Sill Indian School, Lawton Okla., a Bachelor's Degree from Western Kentucky University, and a Master's Degree from Oklahoma State University. While in the United States Army, I was stationed at the Army Medical/Research Laboratory in Fort Knox, Ky. and received an honorable discharge. I retired from the State of Oklahoma after 28 years service as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. I am a member of Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee, Okla. I teach the Adult Sunday School and Children's Church. I am also an Ordained Deacon. I am presently your Okmulgee District Representative and would like to continue to serve you.

Adam Jones III

National Council - McIntosh District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Coweta  
**Church:** Little Coweta Indian Baptist Church  
**Family:** My wife is Amanda Jones and we have five children: Christian, Jordan, Adam, Abigail and Elijah. We live in Stidham, Okla. My parents are Adam Jones Jr. and Mary Jane Jones of Stidham.

**Experience:** I have had the privilege of representing our citizens for the last six years. I truly work hard for our Nation to seek new economic development, jobs and diversity.

**Platform:** My goals as a representative are to find new opportunities. I believe we have new opportunities ahead with the new partnerships, Willowheart. They do 8A work in the construction field. We have been stagnate for too long. Other tribes have 8A contracts from millions to hundreds of millions. This will crate many jobs and dollars that we need as a Nation. This is what we need, to help with programs as our Nation grows. I will also strive to help our health system get better and faster. We are looking to build a new hospital and clinic for our citizens. It has been a long time coming for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to excel and flourish! Our time is now!



# 2013 MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

## Rodney Josie

### National Council - Tulsa District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Deer  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Weogvke (Muddy Waters)

**Education:** (AS): Business Administration; 13 years of experience working with NAHASDA, HUD and other housing related policies and programs; 10 years of experience working as an environmental professional; 8 years of experience working with historic and cultural preservation; 15 years of experience in construction budgeting and contracting.

**Platform:** “I believe Muscogee Creek Nation should be seeking ways to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.” If elected I will use my knowledge and skills obtained through working experience, as well as a strong desire to implement this belief. My experience with housing programs gives me an insight to overcome difficult obstacles, and a vision for solutions to create a more efficient housing program. As an environmental professional, I will help ensure that the tribe remains earth friendly for all tribal projects and activities. I also believe that the tribe can benefit from my knowledge in construction to help make sound construction related project decisions. Other issues of interest are: well-being for the elderly, education, cultural preservation, youth services and improved emergency assistance. These are all important issues and if elected I intend to work diligently toward the improvement and establishment of policies to improve the everyday life of all Muscogee (Creek) Citizens.



## Mark Randolph

### National Council - Wagoner, Mayes, Rogers District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Fuswv  
**Tribal Town:** Nuyakv  
**Church:** New Joy Church

**Education/Experience:** Associates of Arts - Haskell Indian Nations University, Bachelors in Social Work - University of Kansas, Masters in Social Work - University of Kansas

It is a great honor to serve as a National Council representative for the last 14 months. I have 100% attendance for Council Meetings/ Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meetings. I sit on several committees and continue to serve as an agent of positive change for the great Mvskoke (Creek) Nation. I will continue to serve all citizens of all ages inside and outside our boundaries. I believe in the strengths perspective and empowerment. Our people are our greatest asset and prayer is our greatest strength.



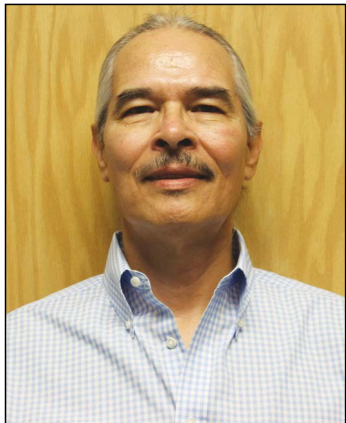
## Eddie LaGrone

### National Council - Muskogee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Katcvlke  
**Tribal Town:** Tuckabatchee  
**Church:** Little Quarsarty  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Green Leaf

**Education/Experience:** Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration/Economics, Masters in Business Administration, Management-in progress, specialized training and experience in tribal sovereignty, tribal taxation, tribal jurisdiction, Indian law and legislative process, member of the Federal Bar Association, past member of the board of directors for the Five Civilized Tribes Museum. 32 years of accomplished service in Tribal Affairs specializing in federal Indian law at the federal and tribal level. Negotiated with USDA and implemented the first Tribal Food Commodity Program in the state of Oklahoma in 1980. Served 17 years as Tribal Government Services Specialist/ Program Analyst with the BIA assisting, tribal governments in P.L. 93-638 contracting and program operation. Served on the BIA Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office Self-Governance Negotiation Team in negotiating Compacts and tribal shares for Annual Funding Agreements.

Served as Acting Superintendant at BIA Talihina Agency advising Indian clients on oil and gas, real property, and other Trust and Fiduciary matters. Served as Special Assistant to the BIA Osage Agency Superintendant for establishing an Osage Tribal Constitutional form of government. IPA appointment as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Policy Analyst to the Principal Chief. Provided expert advice on Tribal Sovereignty, protection of Tribal resources, and drafted Bills and Resolutions for MCN Council enactment. Researched, planned, implemented, and negotiated Self-Governance Compact for the MCN. Appointed by the White House to serve on Dept. of Interior Negotiated Rule Making Committee for establishing Indian royalty rates. Created the MCN Historic Preservation Office.



## Pearl Chalakee-Thomas

### National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Cheyaha Tribal Town  
**Church:** Honey Creek Indian Methodist Church  
**Family:** She and her late husband, Velvin (Pod) Thomas are the parents of Randy Thomas and wife Angela and Patricia and her husband Brian Kilian. They have one granddaughter, Jennifer Kilian and one grandson, Andrew Thomas, a great-granddaughter, Alee Lynn Thomas and a great grandson, Levi Dean Thomas. Her parents are the late Ruben and Peggy (Sunny) Chalakee. Her grandparents were the late Thomas and Mulsie Chalakee and Walter and Ellen (Barnett) Sunny.

**Education/Experience:** She attended Rocky Hill Elementary and graduated from Nuyaka High School in 1960. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Northeastern State University. She retired from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation after 18 years of experience working in different programs of the tribe.

During my journey as your representative, I have met so many good citizens of all ages across the great Muscogee Nation. I served on the Community Services & Cultural Committee the first two years and on the Health, Education and Welfare Committee these past two years. The current administration and the National Council have vigorously worked together to provide better services in the area of elderly housing, economic development, social services and health care for our people.

There is still a need for jobs for our people, adequate housing for our elderly and other eligible citizens. The only promise that I made to you four years ago was that I would represent you to the very best of my ability and I feel I have done that and will continue to do so.

MVTO!



## Francis Morgan

### National Council - Creek District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Nuyaka  
**Military:** U.S. Army - Five years  
**Family:** Two children - J.C. and Tiana, mother and father - Josephine and Louis Morgan

**Education/Experience:** Bacone and NEOSU

**Platform:** Eligibility for the grant award, allocated every four years for our ceremonial grounds and churches is subject to restrictions and requirements. An application to release funds is submitted to the Council. Once approved, the check signed and released, the money spent, all records are then turned into the Muscogee (Creek) Nation controller. Unexpended funds are deposited back into the tribal treasury. Should the records not be turned in as required, recipients will not be eligible for a grant for five to ten years.

Funding for our beloved churches/ceremonial grounds are held to such standards and accountability; shouldn't the STEHETKE contractors be held to the same standards?

Our council is appropriating hundreds of thousands of dollars without solid records or pertinent information. This IS NOT good business nor does it serve the best interest of our citizens. As your representative, I will not forget whose interests I have been elected to represent.



## Virginia Thomas

### National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Wotko  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka Tribal Town  
**Church:** Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church, enjoys visiting Cedar Creek Baptist, Springtown Methodist and Honey Creek Methodist Churches

**Education/Experience:** Bachelor of Arts in Education from San Diego State University with an Elementary Teaching Certificate

**Platform:** I am like you. I want my voice heard and my concerns acted upon. I envision the Muscogee Nation becoming the leading tribe in serving its citizens as well as developing sustainable financial developments. I believe my experience can make a positive difference within the National Council and bring about these changes. My platform is founded on my experience in education and the welfare of American Indian students.

My 43 years of working with our local school districts and advocating on a national level for increased funding for the Johnson-O'Malley and Title VII programs provides me the much needed knowledge. Indian Child Welfare is also close to my heart and I would like to see the Muscogee Nation take an active role to ensure that our children are given every opportunity to grow in a healthy loving environment. I offer you my talents and ask for your support.



## Tom Pickering

### National Council - McIntosh District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Sweet Potato  
**Tribal Town:** Hitchiti  
**Church:** West Eufaula Indian Missionary Baptist Church  
**Family:** Two children - J.C. and Tiana, mother and father - Josephine and Louis Morgan

**Education/Experience:** Sequoyah High School, Central Tech, Oklahoma State University Tech, Bacone College, Northeastern State University, 17 years experience in Tribal Council, Chairman of various committees of the National Council, Chairman of Eufaula Indian Community for eight years, Member of Health Board for many years, Member of Roads Committee, Chairman of Economic Development on Council, Business Owner, Business Consultant, Created many successful businesses, very knowledgeable of tribal government

**Platform:** The Creek Tribe has grown in population over the years and so has its needs. Our elder people is one that's grown a lot especially, and has great needs such as health, housing and other needs. Our young people and children are also in need of programs to help achieve success. Decisions that were made 15 and 20 years ago are what our tribe are benefitting from today.

With your vote and support I will use my experience to address and legislate programs and successful businesses to build revenue. These programs will reflect the needs of communities, elders, children and families. We need to relieve stress and worry for our elders and young. Our primary needs are in health, education, social programs and jobs.



## Lucian Tiger

### National Council - Tulsa District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Wind

**Education/Experience:** I am a graduate of Kellyville High School. I also attended Connors State College as well as Oklahoma State University.

**Family:** I am the son of Lucian (Sonny) Tiger II, grandson of Jo Ella Tiger and Lucian Tiger, the great grandson of Lucinda (Allen) Tiger-Johnson and Porter Tiger.

**Platform:** I believe that in order for our Nation to continue moving forward we must project better returns on our investments and resources. Our Nation is growing through economic development. However, I believe that we also need to invest more into the programs that are already in place for our citizens.

We are a great Nation with great people and I believe that if we all work together and hold each other accountable as representatives anything is possible. If elected as your councilman I will make our nation and our people my priority.

MVTO





# 2013 MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

## Carol Williams National Council - Tulsa District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Echáswv (Beaver)  
**Tribal Town:** Locvpocv (Turtle)  
**Church:** Lexington Road Family Worship Center  
**Ceremonial Ground:** New Tulsa  
**Family:** I am five-eighths Muscogee (Creek) and my parents were Gladys Bland who was full-blood and Lewis McHenry who was one-quarter Creek. My maternal grandparents were Jeanetta Haikey and Louis Bland who were full-blood Creek. My paternal grandparents were Jesse McHenry (one-half Creek) and Louise Partridge. Jesse was the brother of Lewis, Dave, John, Walter and Onis McHenry and Abby McHenry Moore. I have been married to Ron Williams for 51 years. We have four children: Rhanna Simmons, Karrie Phillips, Candy Lillig and Shawn Williams. We have 18 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

**Education:** I have 10 years experience as a Computer Software System Analyst with The Williams Companies and recently retired from AT&T Wireless after thirteen years of service as a Customer Service Representative. I served on the National Council 2010 – 2011. I am a member of Tulsa Creek Indian Community and currently serve as Board of Directors Treasurer. I acquired a Associate Degree in Computer Science Programming from Tulsa Community College while working full time, and raising four children who were very active in: sports, FFA, marching band, cheerleading and participation in rodeos. I have excellent research and analytical skills and am very self motivated and am good at multitasking. I have the interest of my people at heart. Health, housing, higher education, social services and economic development are where I would like to direct my efforts in serving my people. I am retired so I can devote my time to the duties and requirements of a Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative and ALL Creek citizens. Mvto, Carol McHenry Williams, katcvwns@yahoo.com , 918-445-8820 home, 918-520-9154 mobile.



## Thomas Yahola National Council - Tukvpytce District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Deer  
**Tribal Town:** Thlopthlocco  
**Church:** Montesuma  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Tahlahvse  
**Education/Experience:** Wetumka High School, Bacone College, Northeastern State University, Retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Tulsa District, multiple terms with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, speaker of the National Council for two terms and second speaker for one, National Council chairman of the Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee and Human Development.  
**Platform:** Experience Counts: It has been my honor to serve for “Service for the Betterment of the Nation.” This has been evident by regular attendance at local community meetings, assigned committees and National Council meetings. Also, meeting with citizens on issues and working with the Executive Branch. Some noted accomplishments: Sponsored legislation for water line services to Little Wewoka Methodist Church and the town of Dustin, Okla. Also, sponsored legislation for the present Southern Regional Office, which provides various tribal services, the establishment of the Food Distribution Center and SIP Plant. However, there is more to be done and I humbly ask for your vote on Sept. 21. Remember... EXPERIENCE COUNTS! MVTO!



## Lena Wind National Council - Okfuskee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Alabama/Quassarte  
**Church:** New Beginnings, Henryetta - Home Church: High Springs, Okemah  
**Education/Experience:** 10 years with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, 10 years as a public school teacher, B.S.E.D. from Northeastern State University, M.A.E.D Oklahoma City University, 15 years administration of tribal programs including: Indian Child Welfare (Program Director, Foster Care/Adoption), Child Care Director, Director of Social Services (LIHEAP, Safe & Stable Families), JOM program Liaison  
**Platform:** Greetings Muscogee Citizens, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve you for over nine years. I give my God the Creator all the glory for everything accomplished during this time of service! I’ve been and will continue to be a strong voice in support of citizen’s needs, communities, educational endeavors and economic development! It’s amazing to see ideas and plans that I have been involved in become a reality, such as the upcoming 122,000 sq. ft. hospital to be built in Okemah, community buildings (Okemah, Okfuskee) and the Dental Clinic in Okemah, which I sponsored legislatively. I am very proud of the cooperative effort that the current administration and legislative branch has exhibited, this cooperation has provided for more expedient and better service to our citizens! I believe the Lord has much more work for me to do. I ask for your vote!  
For more info: [www.reelectlenawind.com](http://www.reelectlenawind.com)  
Gods Blessings To You! MVTO, Lena Lee Wind



## Constitutional amendments to appear on the ballot

Two questions amending the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution will be on the ballot in the upcoming election. This is an preview of the ballot as it will appear at the polls and an explanation of what you will be voting in favor of if you choose to vote yes.

- National Council Referendum NCA 13-031, amending existing Article VII, Section 2 of the MCN Constitution.  
  
This proposition asks, "Should one additional justice (judge) be added to the MCN Supreme Court?"  
  
By voting 'yes,' the amendment will add a seventh justice (judge) to eliminate tie votes.
- National Council Referendum NCA 13-042, amending existing Article VI, Section 2 and Subsection (a) of the MCN Constitution.  
  
The proposition asks, "Shall eligible voters (resident and absentee) vote for the National Council representative solely in their own district?"  
  
By voting yes, eligible voting citizens will vote for the representative in their own district.

# OBITUARIES

### WILLIE ADAMS JR.




BEGGS, Okla. — Willie Adams Jr. of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was born May 9, 1929 in Beggs to Willie Adams Sr. and Mamie Willis. He passed away May 17, 2013 in the presence of his wife, children and cousins Annie Adams and Melissa. He lived a full and extraordinary life.  
He left High School and joined the Army in 1946 where he served for fifteen years. He completed his high school education at Wheatly High School and took Army college courses at different universities in the U.S. and abroad. He served in active duty during World War II, Korean Way and the Lebanon conflict. In 1961 he discharged from the military and attended college on the G.I. Bill at Cal Poly University where he met his loving and devoted wife, Evon. He received a Masters Degree from Windsor College, attended Southwestern College of Law and later attended seminary at Claremont School of Theology but withdrew due to illness.  
He lived a full and productive. He started out in real estate and later went into the mortgage loan business. He served as an executive assistant to the late Muscogee (Creek) Chief Claude

Cox and sat on the Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes. He worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a general manager and in 1992 he obtained a \$1 million Kellogg Foundation Grant for the MCN.  
Willie loved people and loved living and had so many outstanding gifts and talents. He was a great communicator, speaking German, Japanese, Spanish and old Mvskoke. Most of all he was outgoing and friendly to everyone and spoke his mind. He was a storehouse of knowledge and didn't shy away from people – no matter their race, religion or background. He loved God the creator and was truly a devoted Bible reader until dementia set in during his last few years.  
He was the go to person for family and Muscogee (Creek) history, culture and tradition, having maintained tribal ties throughout the Muscogee Nation. He was very proud of his Muscogee heritage - his ancestors having survived the Trail of Tears from Alabama and Georgia and later served in the Nation's government.  
Willie was generous to all, using his extensive realty background to offer assistance to many people who could not afford homes. He was a loving, kind and generous father of four children: Larceda and Mark Adams, Mark and Willie III. He was married for more than 46 years to his wife Evon, who loves and cared for him.  
He is survived by: 13 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; sisters Christina and Verna Barnes and May Howard; brothers James and Leonard Adams and a host of relatives and friends.  
He was preceded by: mother Mamie Willis Adams; father Willie Adams Sr.; Paternal Uncle Ben Adams and his wife Lora Adams who raise Willie as an infant until about the age of 12 until they passed away; brothers George W. Adams and Herbert Washington.

### ETHA MAE BEVENUE



SAPULPA, Okla. — Etha Mae Bevenue went to be with the Lord May 17, 2013 at the age of 79. Mae was born Aug. 27, 1933 to Jess and Ruby Chamberlin-Reese in Preston, Okla. She was the co-owner with her husband Pat of the Little Brown Spud.  
She was preceded in death by: parents, Jess and Ruby Reese, brothers Jesse, Kenny and Pete Reese, sisters Nan Pruitt, Sue Taylor and Carol Bevenue.  
She is survived by: husband Patrick B. Bevenue Sr., daughter Denise Bevenue, son Patrick B. Bevenue Jr., grandchildren, Katelyn Michelle Louise Bevenue and Daniel and Colton Curtis of Corydon, Ind., ex-daughter-in-law Sherrie Deaton of Corydon, brother J.R. Reese of Murfreesboro, Tenn and a host of nieces and nephews.  
Family visitation was held May 21 at Smith Funeral Chapel and a Wake Service was held May 21 at the Bevenue residence.  
Funeral services were held May 23 at Little Cussetah Church with Rev. Ray Samuels officiating. Internment followed at Little Cussetah Cemetery.  
Pallbearers were David McRae, Roger Taylor, Theoplus Puckett, Al-

fred Bevenue III and Eric and Jonathan Bevenue. Honorary pallbearers were Willie George, Tom Wright Sr., David Combes, Roberto Sagel, J.W. Russell, James Hardison, Willie Ortiz and Bill Bevenue.  
The family would like to say a special thank you to Dr. Ho and Dr. Krishna, the nurses at Southwest Home Health, Sooner Home Health, St. John's Tulsa, Sapulpa Hope Hospice as well as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, Second Chief Roger Barnett and Judith and Steve Pickering for the time spent with the family.  
Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Smith Funeral Home in Sapulpa.  
**ALMA BRUCE BROWN**  
  
MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Alma Bruce Brown was born May 24, 1919 in Muskogee and passed away June 30, 2013.  
She grew up attending Eufaula Indian Boarding School.  
She was the beloved matriarch of our family who loved with every ounce of her being. She taught us many lessons about how to live and behave.  
She will be greatly missed but we all

are comforted knowing she is in heaven where she has wings instead of pain. She was a very strong believer in God and his divine plan for all of us.  
She lived all of her 94 years with gratitude, joy and happiness as a faithful servant of God.  
Even at the hospital our matriarch calmly reminded all that our love for one another would guide us through the coming days and then she offered a prayer, a true testament to her love and faithfulness to family and God.  
Even though she didn't have a structure that most people would call "home," when she arrived at any one of our houses--that made it home.  
Her final days were spent with her family by her side at her grandson's home in Rockwall, Texas.  
Alma was looking forward to being reunited with her loved ones in eternal peace and happiness. HVTVM TE-HECVKVRES!  
She was preceded in death by: sisters Ernestine Marshall, Doris Spurlock, Margaret Roberts and Annabelle Cowen; husband Jacob Milton Brown, a Lakota Sioux from the Pine Ridge Reservation whom she met at Haskell Indian University; sons Bruce Milton Brown and Frederick Howard Brown; daughter Elizabeth Ellen Harden and grandson Stephen Kent Brown.  
She is survived by: daughters Anita Brown-Rodriguez and son-in-law Dave Rodriguez and Alice Brown; sons Ken Brown and his wife Mary Sue, David Brown and his wife Pamela; 20 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.  
A memorial service was held July 20 at Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall, Texas.  
Flowers can be sent to Lake Point Church, 701 E. Interstate 30, Rockwall, TX 75087. A graveside service was held July 27 at Lenna Cemetery in Lenna, Okla.



# OBITUARIES

ROY BROWN



BRISTOW, Okla. — Roy Brown passed away July 27, 2013. He was born Feb. 1, 1938 in Bristow.

He was a pipeline welder and loving husband, father and papa.

Roy is preceded in death by his parents and several siblings.

He is Survived by: wife Nedra Brown, daughters Teresa Betche and her husband Mark, Denise Kennedy and her husband Mark, grandchildren Alayna Formby (Ty), Ashley Nelson (Chase), Hunter Brown Kennedy, great-granddaughters Tess and Lexi Formby and Savannah Nelson.

A funeral was held July 31 at Moore's south lawn.

Online condolences can be posted at: [www.moorefuneral.com](http://www.moorefuneral.com).

BOBBY JENNINGS



TULSA, Okla. — Robert ‘Bobby’ Dean Jennings, a longtime resident of Okmulgee, Okla., passed away July 23, 2013 in Tulsa at the age of 62. He was born April 11, 1951 in Weleetka, Okla.

Bobby grew up in the Okmulgee area and later attended Seneca School and Tahlequah Sequoyah Public Schools. Following his high school years, Bobby joined the U.S. Army where he served for over two years. He was and avid University of Oklahoma fan and was a proud supporter of Tahlequah Sequoyah School activities.

He was a longtime member at Big Cussetah Methodist Church.

Bobby is preceded in death by: mother Pearline Day; brothers Henry Jennings and Tommy Curran and his grandparents.

He is survived by: daughters Vicky Jennings and Deann Baker and her husband Cleve Baker; son Kirby Jennings and his wife Martha; brothers Danny Day and his wife Rita; James Jennings and his wife Joyce and Kenny Dean Jennings and his wife Louise; sisters Jean LeGrand and Lou Jennings; grandchildren Isaac Jennings, Kindred Baker and Kyra Jennings as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and extended family.

A funeral service was held July 27, 2013 at Integrity Chapel with Rev. Gideon Hooper officiating.

Internment followed immediately at Robertson Family Cemetery under direction of Integrity Funeral Services of Henryetta, Okla.

Pallbearers are Tommy Calico, Philip Logan, Matt LeGrand, Cleve Baker, Chad Jennings and Kenny Dean Jennings. Honorary pallbearers are Mike LeGrand, Isaac Jennings, Jerry Watashe, Jacob Narcomey, A.D. Ellis and David Nichols.

JIMMY HARJO



STOCKTON, Calif. — Jimmy Dale Harjo one-half degree Muscogee (Creek) blood, passed away July 24, 2013, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Stockton, California at the age of 72.

Jimmy was born August 2, 1940, in Dustin, Okla. to the late Frank Harjo, Jr. (full-blooded Creek) and Mode (Feathers) Harjo. Jimmy grew up in Henryetta, Okla., and graduated from Henryetta High School in 1958, where he was a star athlete and received a scholarship to Cameron University in Lawton, Okla., where he played football.

Jimmy drove an 18-wheeler truck for many years. He married Myrna Jack from La Habra, California, and they moved to Stockton in 1975. He was employed by Tilly Lewis Foods in Stockton for 20 years and retired from the teamsters union in 1995 to open his own business, Harjo's Antique Restoration. He was a highly skilled craftsman, wood carver, and artisan, not to mention a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Jimmy was preceded in death by: his parents, his sister Ramona Gail (Harjo) Elliott, his son Gregory Shane Harjo and his nephew Chad Elliott.

He is survived by: his wife of 38 years, Myrna, his daughter Leah Kay Harjo- Cleveland, granddaughters Nicole Alissa Cleveland and Stephanie Shea Cleveland, and great-grandson Joshua Michael Lagacy, sister Patsy Pauline Harjo-Workizer of Albuquerque, N.M., uncle Smiley Barnett of Dewar, Okla., aunt Jeanne Stephens of Haskell, Okla., and other brothers, cousins, nephews and nieces.

Per Jimmy's wishes, a family gathering will be held in lieu of formal services. He will be greatly missed.

“The lion sleeps tonight.”

DENNIS KOLAKOWSKI



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Dennis Wayne Kolakowski passed away June 17, 2013 at the age of 52. He was born July 25, 1960 to Jack and Virginia Kolakowski in Okmulgee.

Dennis was raised in Okmulgee and graduated from Okmulgee High School in 1978. He was very athletic and enjoyed playing football and basketball and was most passionate about playing baseball for the Okmulgee Bulldogs whom played centerfield for. He enjoyed reliving those years through the countless stories that he shared throughout his life. After graduation he briefly attended Haskell Indian Junior College but returned home after realizing there was no baseball team.

Over the years Dennis worked in the oil fields, gaming industry and construction. Recently, he was unable to work due to his declining health.

He was affectionately known as ‘KoKo’ by most everyone that knew him. He loved to laugh and especially loved to make people laugh. He never missed an opportunity to poke fun at his friends and family. Most people would agree that KoKo never met a stranger.

He was an avid Dallas Cowboys, Atlanta Braves, Los Angeles Lakers and Oklahoma Sooners fan. He enjoyed watching Andy Griffith reruns and listening to country music, especially Merle Haggard.

He enjoyed shooting pool and played in a local pool league. He enjoyed playing slow and fast-pitch softball and riding his Harley Davidson Motorcycle. He especially loved watching his sons play baseball and football.

He did not want anyone to be sad at his funeral and wanted everyone to remember all the funny stories and happy times with him. He will be greatly missed.

Funeral services were held June 21 at the First Assembly of God Church in Okmulgee with Rev. Anna Stilwell officiating. Burial followed at the Salt Creek Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

He was preceded in death by: father Jack E. Kolakowski, maternal grandparents Webster and Martha Chalakee, uncles Tom Mix and William Chalakee and step-sister Cari Long.

He is survived by: sons Chance Webster Kolakowski, Dallis James Ko-

lakowski and Hayden Jack Kolakowski, mother Virginia Chalakee-Kolakowski, sister Jackie Jimerson, brother Billy Kolakowski, step-mother Lois Kolakowski, step-brother Terry Baker, nephews Harlan Jimerson, Jeremy Kolakowski and Dustin Kolakowski, niece Sarah Ramirez and countless aunts, uncles, cousins, great nieces, great nephews and friends.

Pallbearers were Rocky Morrow, Mike McBroom, Billy Dossey, Randy Thomas, Steve Pigeon, Ed Thomas, Bruce Barnett and Randy Cusher.

Honorary pallbearers were be Billy Barney, Jr., Justin Graves, Jason Radbaugh, Kelly Harjo, Jeremy and Dustin Kolakowski, Harlan Jimerson, Jr., Warren Jimerson, Rayne Harjo, Johnah Fleener and Jeff, Bill, Cody and Nathan Chalakee.

RICHARD MARSHALL



SMITHS STATION, Ala. — Sgt. (Ret.) Richard A. Marshall, 37, died July 16, 2013 at St. Francis Hospital.

Sgt. Marshall was born July 1, 1976 in Claremore, Okla., to Andrea Walker Herrod and Sam T. Marshall.

He was retired from the U.S. Army having served in Iraq. He was a member of Kirkland Memorial Baptist Church and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Eufaula, Okla.

He is survived by: mother Andrea and stepfather Gene Herrod, father Sam T. Marshall, wife of 13 years Brittany C. Marshall, daughter Autumn Brooke Marshall, son Jalen Allen Marshall, sisters Kelli Beaver and Shelbi and Sammi Marshall, brothers Guymon and Derrick Marshall and father and mother-in-law Dana and Jenny Carver.

Graveside services with full military honors were held July 19 at Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery with Rev. Vernon Prather officiating.

Flowers will be accepted but those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Wounded Warrior Project at: [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org). Those who wish may sign the online guest registry at [www.mcmullenfuneralhome.com](http://www.mcmullenfuneralhome.com).

PAULINE MCKINNEY



WETUMKA, Okla. — Pauline Marie Canard McKinney was born March 9, 1917 in Weleetka, Okla., to Jeff and Simmer Tiger-Canard and passed away June 21, 2013 at her home in Wetumka where she had resided for 91 years at the age of 96.

Pauline married David James McKinney Dec. 12, 1035 in Tulsa, Okla. They were married for 63 years at the time of his death in 1998.

Together, they had two sons, David ‘Sonny’ Jefferson McKinney and Roger ‘Bill’ Wayne McKinney.

She was a member of Thlopthlocco United Methodist Church where she was active with the United Methodist Women and served as a Sunday school teacher.

She was also a proud member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Wotko Clan and Tukvptvce Tribal Town.

Pauline was preceded in death by: her parents, husband, sisters Rachel and Eloise, brothers James, Robert, Virgil and Rufus and her oldest son David ‘Sonny’ in 2008.

She is survived by: son Roger ‘Bill’ McKinney, granddaughters Tina McKinney, Misti Paxton and her husband Lonnie, Julia Moore and her husband Lonnie, Lori Robinson and her husband Wayne and grandson Jason McKinney.

Great-grandchildren include: Cody,

Caitlin and Simmer Coachman, Seth, Addison, Ethan and Lillie Beth Paxton, Raevyn and Brady Moore, Brandon Tood and Breanna Robinson, Aden Ellis, Conner Hendershot, Jaden McKinney and Mary Jane.

Pallbearers are: Pauline's great-grandsons along with William and Josh Yargee, Randall Hinkle and Jason and Damon Canard.

Honorary pallbearers are: Jason and Jaden McKinney, Conner Hendershot, Winslow Johnson, Randy and Mike Meadors and Thlopthlocco's United Methodist Women.

CORA RECORD

TULSA, Okla. — Cora E. (Liz) Record passed away peacefully July 15, 2013 at her home in Tulsa at the age of 65 surrounded by her husband, son, daughter, grandson and faithful companion.

She was born Sept. 11, 1947 in Bristow, Okla., to Robert Austin and Bessie Elizabeth Heneha-Bell.

Cora was preceded in death by: maternal grandmother Martha (Harjo) Heneha; paternal grandparents Jasper and Ruth-Anderson Bell; parents Robert Austin and Bessie Elizabeth Heneha-Bell; aunt and uncle Cora and Rosevelt (Rose) Deerisaw and son Baby Boy Record.

She is survived by: husband William (Bill) A. Record; son Robert A. Record and his wife Connie; daughter Lynnetta J. Eyachabbe and her husband Jason; grandsons Robert Douglas Record and his wife Linzee, Austin Dean Record, Aaron Jacob Eyachabbe and Jariah Moses Eyachabbe; faithful companion (Big Girl); sisters Becky (Bell) Thompson and her husband John, Ramona Tanner; brothers Charles David (Bunny) Bell and his wife Mary and George (Bunky) Bell along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A memorial service was held Aug. 17, 2013 at Haikey Chapel officiated by Rev Eli McHenry and assisted by David Wilson and Rev. Royce Wittman.

A special thanks to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for help with final arrangements and a food voucher and to Grace Hospice and nurse Clara.

-Mvto, the Record Family

KATIE TULSA-SMITH



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Katie Tulsa-Smith passed away June 24, 2013 in Tulsa, Okla., at 81 years of age. Katie was born April 30, 1932 in Henryetta, Okla., to Dave and Sally King-Tulsa.

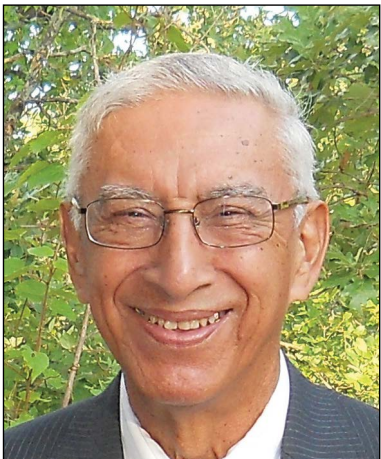
She worked as a housekeeper and was a great mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, She loved fishing, gardening, playing at the casino and bingo. She was a member of the Arbeka Ceremonial Ground and Tiger Clan.

Katie is survived by: daughters Mary Jane Harjo, Johnnie Pool, Janet Maples and Arlene Burbank and her husband Bill, siblings Nora Factor, George and Walter Tulsa and Kenneth Sourjohn, 11 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held June 28 at the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church.

Pallbearers are Eric Burbank, Will Looney, John Taylor, Jim Factor, Michael Factor and Mark Poole.

TOM BARNETT SUNNY



TULSA, Okla. — Tom entered the house of the Lord July 9, 2013 in Tulsa.

He was born to Walter and Ellen Barnett Sunny Aug. 22, 1932, on the family farm in Tiger Township in rural

Okmulgee, Okla.

His maternal grandparents were Tom Barnett and Mary Childers Asbury and his paternal grandparents were Cheloke Harjo and Peggie Sunny.

Tom's mother led the family to Honey Creek Church as much as possible, where he was a life long member and Lay Leader. He was proud of the fact his grandfather and father were charter members. His family, including himself, sons and granddaughters, made five generations of Sunnys to attend Honey Creek.

Tom received a scholarship in basketball to Oklahoma A&M in Okmulgee until he was drafted to the U.S. Army. Tom served with the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Korea. He was very proud of this time in his life and he held this with honor and dignity and wouldn't mind telling you.

He returned to the Tulsa area and began a career at Clark Electrical Supply in downtown Tulsa for over 45 years.

At this time Tom met and fell in love with a co-worker Margiebeth Powell and they were married July 5, 1957. They just celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary. They moved to and lived in the Catoosa Area for over 53 years.

Tom's participated in an infinite amount of athletics including: basketball, bowling, and softball well into his forties, when he then switched to a coach and fan of his boys. Later in life he was present for all of his granddaughter's functions.

Tom was preceded in death by: parents Walter and Ellen Sunny; one baby daughter; brothers and sisters Kissie Houston, Lucy Jones, Josephine, Eugene and George Sunny, Peggy Chalakee, Joan Dunn and Isabel Hardridge.

He was survived by: wife Margie; sons Walter and his wife Lesa and Thomas and his wife Jennifer; granddaughters Morgan Searl and her husband Zach and Kathryn and Rebecca Sunny and sisters Mary Sunny and Betty Woodfield.

Pallbearers are Randy Thomas, Bob and Ben Hardridge, Hayden and Thomas Dunn and Zach Searl. Honorary Pallbearers are Sam and Brenden Woodfield and Calvin Baldrige.

Funeral Services were held at Honey Creek United Methodist Church with Revs. Joe Lowe and Jerry Baker.

Tom was a member of the Nokose (Bear) Clan and was a member of the Cheyaha Tribal Town. He was a lover of life, family and friends.

Tom kept up with the old tradition of the Muscogee way of life and church. He loved Creek Hymns and sang them all. He will be greatly missed and he would want to convey his feeling for all of his friends and love ones. “Vn Herk-tun Cem Wikukis,” my peace I leave with you.

BILL WEST



WELEETKA, Okla. — Bill Thomas West of Weleetka died at home July 8, 2013 at the age of 81. He was born Dec. 10, 1931 in Henryetta, Okla. to Robert and Louise Kelly-West.

He retired from the City of Weleetka as a truck driver and enjoyed watching western movies, listening to church songs, reading his hymnbook and visiting with his grandchildren.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Louise West; sister Lillian West and son Howard West.

He is survived by: wife Nellie West of 63 years; sisters Ester West, Mary Harjo, Sally Scott, Annie Parton and Wanda King; brother Barney West; sons Charles, Daniel, Lumsey West; daughters Wilma and Bettie West, Betsy Roberts and Sandra May; 32 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Pallbearers are: Terry Clark, Dave Pangle, Floyd Harjo, Scott May, Lynn Scott and Tom Williams. Honorary pallbearers are: Jerome, Kenneth, Henry and Glen West, Billy Roberts, David Pangle Jr. and Levi Vanzant.

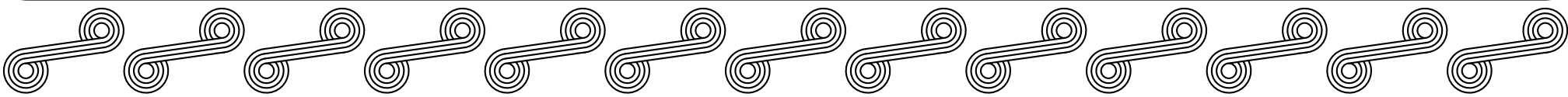
A wake service was held July 11, 2013 at Thewarle Indian Baptist Church in Dustin, Okla., with Revs. John Wayne Tulsa and Eugene Whitlow officiating. A funeral service was held July 12, 2013 at Thewarle Baptist Church and the burial took place at Mitchell Cemetery.



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# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKEKE MEDIA

## Seventh annual MCN Diabetes Summit held in Muskogee

SEPT. 15, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 18  
"OTOWOSKUCE"  
LITTLE CHESTNUT

### Program concentrates on diabetes prevention, management

Jessica McBride  
MNN Reporter

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The seventh annual Muskogee (Creek) Nation Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit was held Aug. 29 in Muskogee at the Muskogee Civic Center.

Attendees were able to hear speakers from the Native American community, participate in health screenings and try different activities.

According to the Indian Health Service website, American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest rates of Type 2 diabetes out of any other ethnic group in the U. S. The summit strives to educate citizens on prevention and maintenance of the disease.

Booths were set up at the event to advertise products and services regarding diabetes including medical devices, insurance and footwear. Several MCN departments furnished information about the services they provide to citizens.

The summit offered attendees blood sugar and blood pressure tests as well as foot exams. Participants were able to review the results with nurses and dietitians after the screenings.

Exercise workshops provided people with an opportunity to



MNN/Darren DeLaune

William Fixico, Exercise Programs Manager at the Okmulgee Indian Health Clinic, teaches the tai chi class Aug. 29 at the MCN Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit. Programs were offered to attendees to educate them in preventing and treating diabetes.

explore new workout programs.

Kimberlee Little, MCN Division of Health Exercise Programs Manager explained that presenting the different exercise activities to attendees not only informed them of different ways to stay active, but also exposed them to a class.

"The reason we have those, specifically Zumba, we might have some people that are intimidated to go to class. They don't know what it's about. Well this is a chance for them to get to see what

Zumba is about and then they can go on and feel a little more comfortable when they get out in the community and attend these classes." Little said.

The summit also provided information about the programs that the Nation offers to Muskogee (Creek) citizens. Services include classes on disease management as well as activities such as walking for adults and jump roping for children.

The DOH also has a program in schools within the area that work

with physical education teachers to encourage children to be active.

"We try to create P.E. classes that keep the kids moving at all times. So there are no elimination games. We camouflage fitness," said Little. "We make it so much fun they forget that they're exercising and they're getting their exercising in."

Breakout sessions were offered to educate attendees about diabetes prevention and daily struggles associated with the disease.

SUMMIT - 3

## Gray found guilty of criminal trespassing, disorderly conduct

### Attorney plans to appeal ruling regarding Hickory Ground protester

Jessica McBride  
MNN Reporter

WETUMPKA, Ala. — Muskogee (Creek) citizen Wayland Gray was found guilty on misdemeanor charges of criminal trespassing and disorderly conduct Aug. 22 by an Elmore County district judge.

Gray was arrested Feb. 15 for trespassing along with two other members of Hickory Ground while attempting to pray for their ancestors who were exhumed from the expansion site for a casino belonging to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Wetumpka, Ala.

A Cherokee man who accompanied the tribal town members was booked with them in the Elmore County Jail.



Mvskeke Media/Jason Salsman

Muskogee (Creek) citizen and Hickory Ground Tribal Town member Wayland Gray was found guilty Aug. 22 of criminal trespassing and disorderly conduct. The charges stem from his arrest Feb. 15 while attempting to pray for his ancestors who were exhumed from the expansion site for a casino belonging to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Wetumpka, Ala.

Hickory Ground members Mike Harjo and Michael Deo along with the Cherokee man who identified himself as "Maggot" were released Feb. 15, while Gray was held on the additional charge of mak-

ing a terrorist threat. Charges against the other three men were dropped.

The terrorist threat charge against Gray, which is a felony, was dropped prior to the trial.

Initially, the judge sentenced Gray to 120 days in jail for the Aug. 22 ruling. That sentence was suspended, and replaced with two years of probation and a \$350 fine. Gray was also ordered to stay off of PBCI property.

Gray's Alabama legal council, Bill Baxley, has requested a trial by jury. According to Baxley, a jury trial was not originally granted because the charges against the Muskogee (Creek) citizen were minor. The appeal process could take as long as a year.

In order to keep the guilty conviction, all members of the jury will have to find Gray guilty of the charges. Baxley believes that a jury will overturn the verdict.

"I think it's an important point that Native Americans should be allowed to practice in their own way, the respect for their ancestors in a place they find to be holy," said

GRAY - 3



### GNRC offers many services to patients

#### Improvements expected under MCN ownership

Jessica McBride  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The George Nigh Rehabilitation Center, purchased by Muskogee (Creek) Nation Aug. 12, provides many services and programs to Okmulgee, surrounding communities and many patients in northeastern Oklahoma.

The rehab center started out as a U.S. Army hospital in 1943. Since then, the management of the hospital has changed hands several times along with the name. In 1992, the facility was transferred to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs War Commission to serve the veterans of Oklahoma.

The University of Oklahoma acquired GNRC in 1999.

Since its opening, GNRC has contributed to the community by providing rehabilitation services. With the upcoming ownership change, Beverly Walker, GNRC liaison, expects the facility will continue to provide the same level of service to the community as they have in the past.

Complete transfer of the facility will occur within the next 60 days. Currently, the paperwork is being done to transfer all of the licensing.

GNRC currently has three doctors on staff who preside over their prospective programs. Therapists, registered nurses and certified nursing assistants are also on staff. The rehab center is also a teaching hospital and has students in every department.

GNRC is a referral only facility and services offered by the facility include both inpatient and outpatient therapy.

GNRC receives referrals from nursing homes, home health services, primary care clinics and hospitals including Okmulgee Memorial Hospital

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MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

STAFF

MANAGER  
CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE

EDITOR  
STERLING COSPER

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
GARY FIFE

REPORTER  
KYLA MCKOWN

REPORTER  
JESSICA MCBRIDE

REPORTER  
DARREN DELAUNE

FEATURE WRITER  
GERALD WOFFORD

CIRCULATION  
WILMA MURPHY

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CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 1, 2013 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News,' the family information within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council candidate profile for Pearl Thomas was inadvertently copied into the Council candidate profile for Virginia Thomas. MNN Editor Sterling Cosper apologizes to both candidates and their families. View the amended profiles on page 11.

The MNN also obtained confusing information regarding the California Creek Association meeting set for Oct. 5 through a social media outlet. Citizenship cards **are not** required for those wishing to attend. For more information about the meeting see the community calender on page eight.

Former Second Chief Alfred Berryhill passes away



Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Rev. Alfred Berryhill passed away Aug. 31 at Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, Okla., at the age of 66.

Methodist minister remembered as leader and servant

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Rev. Alfred Berryhill passed away Aug. 31 at Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Alfred Berryhill served the tribe as Second Chief from 2004-2011.

Before his passing, Alfred Berryhill was serving as director of MCN Cultural Preservation, a position he held since January 2012.

“First of all I want to wish condolences to the family of Alfred Berryhill,” said MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

“Alfred and I actually grew up together, his mom and dad were good friends with my mom and dad. In fact, Alfred’s father Togo, officiated at the funeral for my father,” said Tiger.

Rev. David Dunson served in the second chief’s cabinet and described Alfred Berryhill as a true “statesman.”

“Alfred really looked out for the people. There was no concern that he wouldn’t get involved with, if he could help in any way he would. Often going into his own pocket, going out to say prayers for people when they came into the office.

“Just whatever the needs were, we would find the remedy or solution and that was his motto, ‘to help the Creek people’ and that’s what he stood for,” Dunson said.

Sherry Berryhill, who is married to Alfred Berryhill’s son Greg Berryhill, remembers a very benevolent man.

“He was very good and loving, always caring. He would do anything for anybody. He would take of everyone else first and forgetting about himself,” Sherry Berryhill said.

Assistant Manager of the MCN Cultural Preservation Office Odette Freeman who also served as administrative assistant for Alfred Berryhill during his term as second chief, shared the same sentiments.

“Over the years, I learned so much about Alfred, but first and foremost was his love for the Muscogee people. He didn’t run for second chief and then chief for personal glory. “He just wanted to see that

his people were taken care of. He always said that what money Creek Nation had, belonged to everyone. That is why he requested discretionary funds in his budget; so he could help people when they were turned down elsewhere,” Freeman said.

Alfred Berryhill grew up in the Preston, Okla., area and was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Reserves.

For years Alfred Berryhill battled alcoholism but was able to overcome it and became a Methodist minister.

In 2008, Mvskoke Media, formerly known as the MCN Communications Department, began producing the weekly program ‘Native News Today.’ Jason Salsman, who co-hosts the show, remembers Alfred Berryhill as being one of the first guests on the program.

“As I got to know him more and we became friends, I realized what an incredible redemption story that he was. I had such an enhanced appreciation for him, because here’s a guy that went through the highs and lows to eventually get to right where he needed to be in life and that was as a leader for Creek people,” said Salsman.

Tiger shared a similar appreciation for Alfred Berryhill’s triumph over his personal issues.

“There are times when we all fall,” said Tiger, “and sometimes when we have to pick ourselves up, we never know who is going to be around. But with Alfred, he overcame a lot of things and by overcoming any obstacles in his lifetime, he was a stronger person for it and that was reflective of a whole Nation electing him as second chief.”

Freeman, felt the ministry was Alfred Berrryhill’s true calling and that his life symbolized true service.

“I remember when Will Sampson passed away. My aunt, who was very close to him, asked me if I was going to the services. I said I really didn’t know him.

“She said, ‘It doesn’t matter. We’ve lost one of our people. You should go.’ Now we have lost another one of our people. No greater than any of the others who have gone before him but a smart and caring man who made a difference,” said Freeman.

Alfred Logan Berryhill was 66-years-old.

Domestic violence prevention community mourns loss of colleague



Mourners gathered in Ponca City, Okla., at the Standing Bear Park, Aug. 28 to honor the life of the late Janett Reyna. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services Manager Rev. David Dunson (left) and Janett Reyna’s mother, Patricia McIntyre (right).

Domestic violence prevention community mourns loss of colleague

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

PONCA CITY, Okla. — The occasion was tragic, somber and somewhat ironic as friends, family and coworkers of a popular domestic violence prevention advocate gathered to mourn her loss to the very crime she worked to prevent.

Mourners gathered in Ponca City, Okla., at Standing Bear Park, Aug. 28 to honor the life of the late Janett Reyna.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program Manager, Shawn Partridge was part of the MCN group remembering Reyna’s work and dedication. MCN Senior Services Manager Rev. David Dunson also attended and delivered a closing prayer.

Reyna, worked for the Ponca Tribe in the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Program and was allegedly slain by her children’s father during a domestic disturbance. She had served in law enforcement, completing training in CLEET—the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training before joining the Ponca Tribe staff.

In her remarks, Partridge called on the assembled group to carry on the dedication and work of Reyna.

“Being the advocate that Janett was, I know that she would want every single one of us to do something to ensure the victims of domestic violence are safe. I think that is the best way that we can go on and honor her memory.

“I don’t think that anybody knows, unless you’re an advocate, what it is that we go through, the responsibility that we carry to ensure that our women are safe. Wondering, ‘Did we do everything we could do? Did we provide every resource; have we made ourselves available in every way possible, to make sure that they’re safe?’ ”

Partridge commented on Reyna’s attempts to preserve her family’s safety within her personal domestic situation.

“Janett took every step that she knew how to try to keep herself safe and her children safe and it wasn’t enough. Unfortunately, despite everything that we do, the media shows that there are going to be those times that it isn’t enough.”

Partridge added that the MCN was there to lend encouragement.

“I want you to know that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is behind you a hundred percent and here to offer any support that we can. I hope, if there is something that is needed, you

will be sure to let us know. Again, I just want to encourage each of you to go out and to do something.”

The irony of how Reyna’s passing occurred was not lost on Partridge. She acknowledged the fact that other speakers had mentioned it and also shared those feelings.

“I think that was mentioned or reiterated several times today in the words that were spoken. I mean domestic violence—no one is immune to it. When there’s no way to prepare, even trying to think about what to speak about today. There is no way to prepare for this.”

Partridge believed this occurrence to be unprecedented and viewed it as tragic.

“That’s not anything that I’ve ever had to do; talk about the loss of a fallen advocate to domestic violence. From what I gather, none of our other sister advocates have ever had to do that either. It’s very shocking and just tragic and as a new mom, myself, my heart goes out to her children and her family.”

Reyna’s mother, Patricia McIntyre spoke of her daughter and her dedication.

“She was Hispanic, but she loved every culture, every race. To her, she didn’t see any difference. To her, she just wanted to do the best for everybody, always willing to help anyone.”

Reyna was 29-years-old. She had three children, ages 6, 3 and 2.

Rebecca Monhatwa, Ponca Tribe Victims Advocate, remembers Reyna as an effective and dedicated coworker.

“There was a lot of people that, when they call, they would specifically ask for her, which, to me, felt like they were comfortable with her, and we all know that it’s word-of-mouth in small communities, you know, ‘Janett helped me’ or whatnot.

“There was a lot of people that only wanted her help, not anyone else’s. There was a time when the Otoe tribe had to call us because they had a victim up there that only wanted to work with Janett. She got on a very personal note with them.”

Monhatwa said that Reyna’s presence will be missed, but she had left of legacy of teaching other staff members to carry on in her absence, “I need you to know how to do this in case I’m not here.”

Monhatwa said, now she will carry on that legacy and teach her fellow staff member the same kind of preparedness.

As of Aug. 29, Reynas’ husband, Luis Octavio-Frias, the prime suspect in the case had been charge with first-degree murder by Oklahoma Kay County officials.

According to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Frias had not been found.



SUMMIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Classes aimed to motivate and encourage individuals to make changes for a healthier lifestyle.

Dr. Lois Frank and Walter Whitewater taught workshops on healthy Native foods that can help combat Type 2 diabetes. The sessions educated attendees on the history of ancestral diets and the benefits of returning to one. The presenters also taught a class on preparing simple meals with plant-based foods.

Frank is a culinary anthropologist and adjunct professor at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M. She is also the chef and owner of Red Mesa Cuisine in Santa Fe, which specializes in Native American cuisine.

Whitewater is the chef de cuisine at Red Mesa Cuisine and teaches in community outreach programs along side Frank.

The presentations taught participants to reclaim ancestral foods for healthy eating. Frank believes in motivating people to not only maintain their own gardens but also promotes a share, trade and barter philosophy in order to save money and eat a healthy diet.

“We can celebrate it still being Native, and promote a Native American agenda and in the process revitalize culture, stories, recipes and our health and wellness,” Frank said.

In her class, Frank discussed the importance of incorporating plant-based foods into an every day diet. She also provided modern and healthy alternatives to popular dishes such as no fry-fry bread that is grilled instead of fried.

Acting Diabetes Manager Sharon Iverson, stated that it is important for a citizen with diabetes to attend the event so they can receive new information about the disease.

“I think through the years the people that I have talked to, it’s an encouragement to them to go home and do something different,” said Iverson. “And really in terms of making changes, if you can go home and make one thing different and carry that change through, that is a big encouragement to people.”

Iverson says the date and location of next year’s summit have not been finalized. The event is typically hosted in different communities so that all citizens have an opportunity to attend.

GRAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Baxley. Baxley is famous for his case against the Ku Klux Klan in 1977. He successfully prosecuted Robert Chambliss for the bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

Baxley is also representing MCN and Hickory Ground in their federal lawsuit against the officials of PBCI for removing 57 sets of human remains from the original Hickory Ground site. According to Baxley, the status of the case is pending.

“It’s kind of a hurry up and wait situation,” said Baxley.

Brendan Ludwick, attorney for the MCN Hickory Ground Tribal Town, chose Baxley because he is licensed to practice law in Alabama where the suit was filed.

“I’m very honored to be representing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,” Baxley said.



The George Nigh Rehabilitation Center offers a variety of services including aquatics therapy.

and Saint Francis Health System in Tulsa, Okla.

The facility has four inpatient beds in their long term acute care unit, eight skilled nursing beds, 26 inpatient rehab spaces and has unlimited outpatient rehab spaces. Though there are few private rooms, GNRC feels that patients benefit by associating with others that are experiencing some of the same struggles.

Part of what makes the facility unique is that it is the only rehab facility in the area that is not hospital based. Employees strive to have a relationship with each patient so that they do not feel as if they are just a number. The staff is always looking at what they can offer in order to give the patient the best care possible.

“We keep records and 84 percent of our patients are able to go home,” said Walker.

For each referral that is received, a liaison from GNRC goes out to the individual and assesses each potential patient. The liaison will then develop a report for the patient’s doctor as well as the rehab facility so that they can establish a treatment plan and admittance to the facility.

Part of each patient’s therapy session simulates activities that are experienced in a home setting. Occupational therapy is a significant part of the treatment program. It is important to the staff that each patient be independent and comfortable in their own home.

“Whether they’re young or you know, whether they’re 85, and we’ve had some 100-year-olds here too. You know they deserve to be the best they can be; to be as independent as possible,” said Walker.

GNRC offers many types of programs at the facility including cardiac rehab, work injury rehab, audiology services and prosthetic training. Pediatric therapy and services for special needs children are also available.

The speech-language pathology department provides both cognitive and physical treatment. Therapists in this department are licensed to administer the Fiber optic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing to adults and children. FEES is a procedure that uses an endoscope and video equipment to assess patients who struggle with swallowing. Therapists are then able to provide treatment based on their assessment.

According to Walker, one of their many popular programs is aquatics therapy. The program is not only available to patients, but also to people in the community for \$40.00 for twelve sessions. Low impact sessions are for arthritis and other ailments to help increase movement of stiff joints. High impact sessions emphasize in-

tensity for weight loss and toning.

GNRC invites family members to attend therapy sessions to support the patient and also develop an understanding of the challenges that they face. Once a patient is home bound, family members can be an important aspect of encouragement.

“We’re very family friendly here. Families are encouraged to come during their therapy and you know, interact,” Walker said.

GNRC also has a few apartments available for a fee, to families traveling to the facility from a considerable distance.

After the transfer of ownership to MCN is complete, Walker says GNRC will continue to offer their services to all individuals. They will also reach out to Indian Health Service centers to better serve Native Americans in the area.

Other than the ownership change and the changes that come along with new management, Dr. Olakunle Ajanaku, Medical Director of GNRC, says the public will not notice significant changes in GNRC operations other than additional services

“Nothing has changed. Medicine doesn’t change; that’s one aspect of it,” Ajanaku said. “The administration can change or accounting and all those things might change but when it comes to medical; it’s all universal.”

GNRC will also utilize the new mobile health unit recently acquired by the MCN Division of Health. This will allow the facility to provide prosthetics screenings and present services to newly diagnosed patients in rural areas.

With MCN ownership, Walker says the rehab center will be able to add more services such as respiratory therapy and be able to update the equipment they have. The facility will also be able to transfer their paper medical records to an electronic system.

Walker believes that the MCN acquisition of OMH will benefit the rehab center.

“Well definitely as the hospital grows, we grow,” Walker said.

Walker says that they are enthusiastic about the upcoming changes, and the new opportunities that will arise after the complete transfer to MCN.

“We are just so thankful to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We are so excited. We’ve had a great relationship with tribal members for a long time. And we just feel like that’s the most important thing people, you know, need to hear is that we’re open for business to everyone,” said Walker. “And Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as far as I know is the only tribe that’s going to be doing that and that’s really cool.”

## MCN purchases naming rights to Muskogee football field



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
The MCN National Council passed TR 13-117 Aug. 24 for the naming rights of the Muskogee Public Schools football field at the Indian Bowl.

### MCN to add name to another property

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will soon add their name and logo to another piece of property.

The MCN National Council passed TR 13-117 Aug. 24 for the naming rights to the Muskogee Public Schools football field at the Indian Bowl.

The agreement will give the Nation naming rights to the field for the next five years at \$15,000 a year.

It will be called the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Field.

MCN Public Relations Manager Edwin Marshall said he considered this opportunity since the money was available in the budget and he saw the advertising benefits.

“Muscogee is a 6A school, one of the largest schools in the state,” Marshall said. “It’s a very prominent school and has a lot of history of football and especially with a lot of Native Americans in Muskogee; we’ve had a lot of prominent people come from Muskogee.”

Marshall isn’t the only one who sees this move as an opportunity.

“On behalf of Muscogee (Creek) Nation, we are pleased to be in partnership with the Muskogee Public School system in the naming rights of the field at the historic Indian Bowl,” MCN Principal Chief

George Tiger said. “Together as a Nation and school, we bring proud traditions on and off the athletic field in education and government.”

Tiger listed some of the prominent Native Americans by name that Marshall referred to.

“Names of individuals like Jack Jacobs and others used the Indian Bowl as a stepping-stone to success. I know that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Field will continue to be a part of new legacies.”

The property, which sits within the Nation’s boundaries, hosts about 68 to 70 events each year on the field including: eighth-grade to high school football, boys and girls soccer and track, as well as Bacone College home football games and the Hershey Track Meet.

Along with great advertisement for MCN, Marshall said it’s also a gesture of community support.

“We have a lot of presence in other towns, Fountainhead, Riverwalk in Jenks and other parts of our Nation,” Marshall said.

Muscogee (Creek) officials will appear at Muskogee Public Schools’ first football game of the season in mid-September.

Marshall said there is a verbal agreement for the MCN to have the first opportunity to renew the naming deal after the five year contract expires.

## Learning our language 2013: Week 2

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Yeah, I know that I said I was finished with this diary last December but by popular demand; I’m back. The popular demand comes from our editor who needs to fill space from time to time. By the way, the last series of these diaries actually won an award from the Native American Journalists Association.

I’m going to Mvskoke language classes, offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 – 1 p.m. I presume the students are mostly tribal employees who want to gain or add to their language skills. Great, I like to see our people trying to revive the use of our language. This class seems larger than the last one I attended.

As with the first class, there are many levels of language proficiency. Some are like me, just beginners. Some sound quite fluent but are after a firm grounding in the written part and want to expand their abilities. Again great, I think it helps us beginners to hear the sounds and their usage.

This will be the second session of this class, but I’m not sure it will be the second level up for me. I’m one of those folks who didn’t get to study my language lessons much since the last class. To make matters even more fun, I walked in to the second class of the season thinking it was the

first. So I’m already one class behind.

Our teacher Daria Hicks is still very good at connecting with students and makes the class fun.

First came a quick little test, with about a dozen questions in Mvskoke, requiring students to provide an English translation. I actually felt like I remembered the majority of the phrases and my answers were correct. Of course, that remains to be seen when I get the test back.

The lesson was a review of the alphabet and pronunciation of the two letter combinations. It’s back to the building blocks again. That’s OK because the review does me good.

Many of us recent students were asked what we got out of the last course. Most named the phrases they learned and the advances they made in their abilities. I had to agree with them, but I also added that I gained some confidence and determination in using Mvskoke, at least, the little bit that has stayed with me so far.

The next lessons will grow in complexity. I’m hoping that they will include sentence structure and how the verbs change in usage. I’m also hoping that I can keep and understand what I’m being taught.

This will be a giant leap forward in understanding the spoken language used by the elders and those fluent in Mvskoke.







# Aug. 30, 1813: The Battle of Fort Mims

*From the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Cultural Preservation*

By: Larry Haikey

Following the battle at Burnt Corn Creek, the settlers began to fortify a selected large farmhouse in the southwestern portion of Alabama. Local residents moved to the forts in anticipation of attacks. This area of Alabama had a high number of Creek half bloods that were actively involved in the white economic and lifestyle systems.

Situated on relatively high ground on the east bank of Tensaw Lake, Fort Mims began as the fortified home and outbuildings of Samuel Mims. The lake was formed from an old channel of the Alabama River and was connected to the river by a navigable passage. The fort consisted of 17 buildings, including one blockhouse and a log palisade. By early August 1813, about 550 settlers and slaves from the surrounding area had crowded into the tiny stockade. A number of local Creeks and half-breeds had also sought protection within the fort.

Brig. Gen. Ferdinand L. Claiborne of the Mississippi territorial militia was in charge of military affairs in the region. His subordinates consisted of local volunteers with little training. He sent Maj. Daniel Beasley and 170 men of the 1st Mississippi Volunteers to defend the Fort Mims area. Beasley posted 120 men at Fort Mims.

Beasley had no military experience and was a lawyer in the territory's Jefferson County when Claiborne, a close personal friend, used his influence to have him appointed a militia major in February 1813. Beasley had been at Fort Mims only a few days when Claiborne inspected the post Aug. 7, 1813 and recommended that at least two and possibly three additional blockhouses be built.

"To respect our Enemy, and to prepare in the best possible way to meet him, is the certain means to ensure success," Claiborne wrote in orders to Beasley after the inspection.

On Aug. 13, 1813, about 50 of Beasley's men at Fort Mims

were sent to Mount Vernon, a cantonment on the Mobile River a few miles west of the fort.

"It is with regret that I send them as it weakens my command very much," Beasley wrote to Gen. Claiborne, who had ordered the movement.

Yet the loss of these troops, which left Beasley with only 70 militiamen in addition to the volunteers among the settlers, did not cause the major to hasten work on the fort's defenses. Beasley's lack of placing a priority on improving the fortifications and increasing vigilance was tied to reports - supplied as a diversionary tactic by the Red Stick warriors and believed by militia leaders, including Claiborne - that the Red Sticks were preparing for an attack on Fort Easley, located on the Tombigbee River about 30 miles northwest of Fort Mims.

Beasley's post was believed to be out of immediate danger. On Aug. 24, 1813, Claiborne led about 80 men to reinforce Fort Easley.

The Red Sticks, a group of Upper Creeks opposed to the increasing encroachment of white settlers on Creek lands, learned of the weakness of the Fort Mims' garrison from their scouts and gathered from 750 to 1000 warriors for an attack on Fort Mims. Paddy Welsh, a believer in the ideas of Tecumseh was chosen to lead the assault, but William Weatherford, also known as Chief Red Eagle, was also a leader of the attack.

By Aug. 29, 1813, Welsh and Weatherford had hidden their main force in the woods and tall grass about six miles from the unsuspecting outpost, where soldiers and settlers were enjoying a supply of whiskey that had arrived that day. Sometime during the day, two slaves tending to cattle outside the stockade saw a few of the Red Sticks in the woods near the fort. They returned to the fort and informed Beasley. Beasley ordered a mounted patrol of about 10 men to check out the sighting.

Two of these scouts appar-

ently rode within 300 yards of the Red Stick force without seeing the concealed warriors. Red Stick accounts stated that two of the militiamen, talking between themselves, passed along a road leading to the fort with the Red Sticks watching from the brush. Since the patrol reported no Indian activity in the area, Beasley ordered the slaves to be whipped for bringing false information and took no other precautions. During the day of Aug. 29, 1813, the Red Sticks had advanced to within one mile of the fort. During the night, Weatherford and two warriors silently made their way to the outer walls of the fort and looked through the fort's firing ports (loopholes) which were cut into the palisade timbers about four feet from the ground. The sentries were playing cards and evidently never saw them.

The morning of Aug. 30, 1813, was a hot and humid day few of Fort Mims' militia were active in the heat. In the shade of the woods, the Red Sticks watched and waited. The fort's main gate, located on the east side of the stockade, had not been closed and was lodged open by a shifting bank of sand. It is possible that Weatherford and his men may have piled the sand to hold the gate open. No sentries occupied the blockhouse.

Beasley sent a message to Claiborne describing the "false alarm" spread by the slaves. He included a statement about other slaves sent to a nearby plantation to gather corn had reported seeing Red Sticks and that he now doubted the truth of that report. During the morning of the 30th, Beasley received one last warning, but also believed it to be false. James Cornells, a scout, galloped into the fort and shouted to Beasley on the parade ground that he had seen Red Sticks near by.

Beasley told him that he had only seen a few red cattle and mistaken them for Indians. Witnesses stated that Cornells yelled to Beasley that the

red cattle would, "give him a hell of a kick before night." Beasley ordered Cornells arrested, but the scout galloped away, leaving the outpost and its occupants to their fate.

At noon, a drummer sounded the call to mess, and the soldiers and settlers headed for their noon meal. The drum was the Red Stick's signal to attack. Hundreds of Red Stick warriors, hidden in a ravine only 400 yards from the fort, stormed across the open field and crowded through the open gate.

Before the attack, the prophet Welsh had performed a ceremony to make four warriors immune to bullets. These warriors were to lead the attack through the gate and divert the defender's attention long enough for other warriors to occupy the stockade's loopholes and fire into the fort from outside the walls. These four, were the first to rush into the gate and three were shot down during this assault.

Despite the failure of the magic, the militiamen were occupied long enough for the other warriors to take many of the loopholes and open fire on the whites running for cover inside the fort. Within minutes of the initial attack, the Red Stickss had also seized the unoccupied blockhouse. By surprise and sheer numbers, the Red Sticks quickly established a foothold inside and slowly pushed all of the defenders back behind the secondary defenses.

They were overwhelmed by the number of Red Stick warriors rushing into the stockade. Many of the fort's defenders were killed by Red Sticks firing into the fort through loopholes behind the defender's positions. The Red Sticks set fire to most of the fort's buildings using flaming arrows. Many settlers, including numerous women and children were burned alive. The fort's powder magazine, located in one of the cabins, exploded, ignited by the raging flames.

By 3 p.m., the battle continued. Most of the surviving settlers and militiamen had sought refuge in a loom

house and another log building against the fort's north wall. The Red Sticks set these last two structures ablaze. Some settlers died in the flames, but others were forced out and immediately killed by the warriors. Some settlers, mostly men, were able to hack their way through the northern stockade wall and make their escape. A few found a flatboat and floated down the river to Fort Stoddert near Mobile, Ala.

The Red Sticks apparently spared most of the slaves. While the slaves were spared during the battle, the Red Sticks did not spare the whites. By some accounts, the Red Sticks slaughtered the settlers including women and children. The Red Sticks also believed a false rumor that British officials in Pensacola offered \$5 for every white scalp. Many of those killed at Fort Mims were scalped.

During this period, Red Stick wars were wars of extermination. The wars were not man against man but nation against nation. This system of war included the killing of woman and children. Killing woman and children along with the men was a means to both strike fear in the hearts of the enemy. A man could be easily ambushed in the woods, but it was a brave warrior that could go into an enemy's territory, to their very house, strike them dead and escape.

It is this differing cultural view of war and how one is to participate in it that leads the whites to call the battle of Fort Mims a massacre. When to the Red Sticks it was simple warfare and a decided victory. By 5 p.m., the battle was over and the Red Sticks and their captives left the blazing ruins and the dead behind.

## Cultural Preservation Office



Male and Female Human Effigies from Etowah Mounds in Georgia

### Contact Info

918-732-7733

Odette Freeman - Interim Manager

Terry Cole - Interim Assistant Manager

Johnnie Wesley - Secretary

Emman Spain - Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)

David Proctor - Cultural Specialist

Rosina Johnson - Librarian

Chumona Deere - Archivist

Gano Perez - Cultural Technician

### Cemetery Crew

Charles Kelly - Crew Supervisor

Allen King - Cemetery Technician

Robin Soweka - Cemetery Technician

Charley Hicks - Cemetery Technician

Mark Your Calendars!

### A Muskogean Symposium 2013

Cultural Preservation Office invites you to...

Meyuksv-seko Mvskoke

Immerse your mind deep within the Mvskoke Civilization from the Mississippian Period (Mound Builders) up to the Pre-Removal Historic Period. Renowned Academic Professionals will speak on the Evidence and Interpretations of their studies.

Everyone is personally invited by the Cultural Preservation Office to attend this milestone Symposium.

**\$Priceless**

October 10th & 11th 9am-4pm @ Muscogee Nation Tribal Complex– Auditorium in the Mound Hwy 75 & Loop 56 Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447



## MCN Southern Regional Office holds open house



MNN/Kyla McKown  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Manager Tony Fish and Project Coordinator Amber Nelson distribute information about their program Sept. 4 at the MCN Southern Regional Office Open House.

### MCN SRO provides easier access to tribal services

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizens were welcomed at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Open House Sept. 4 where MCN departments and services set up booths featuring information about their programs, food and door-prizes.

The event was the first of its kind, and was a way for citizens to see what the SRO has to offer. Since the SRO opened April 29, 2011, there has been an effort to get the word out about the office to the southern portion of the tribal jurisdiction.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Wilma Coachman, of Wetumka, Okla., came to the SRO for her citizenship card when she realized it was also an open house.

“I realized there are a lot more services offered here than I had known of. I also got some freebies,” Coachman said.

The SRO in Wetumka now houses the satellite offices for MCN Housing Division, Head Start Program, Health Center, Human Development, Lighthorse Tribal Police, Citizenship Office, Child Care, National Council, Child Support Services, Election Board, Social Services and Tax Commission, as well as the SIPS plant and a Food Distribution Center.

Marian Berryhill, SRO Department of Housing Development Specialist, said through visiting with citizens who use the SRO, they’ve realized other services that would be helpful at the Wetumka location.

“The goal is that they don’t have to go to Okmulgee for these services,” Berryhill said.

The MCN Tax Commission Department is available every Tuesday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

for purchase and renewal of tribal tags and more. MCN National Council Rep. Thomas Yahola is available every Wednesday and by appointment at his Wetumka office at the SRO.

The MCN Citizenship Office provides service to the area the first Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., which is the reason for the Sept. 4 open house, which was intended to reach as many citizens at the office as possible.

The SRO provides service to communities such as: Wetumka, Weleetka, Holdenville, Okemah, Lamar, Cromwell, Clearview and Dustin, Okla., and even some citizens from Eufaula, Okla., and Oklahoma City.

Darleata Tiger, SRO Site Coordinator, said the main goal of the event is to show what the MCN has to offer citizens.

“We want to just let our citizens know we have this office here,” Tiger said. “And you know times are hard, like around this area. It’s kind of hard to find jobs and it makes it tough, especially if you don’t have a car. The main purpose is to let them know we do what we can to serve our people.”

Tiger and Berryhill agree it hasn’t been easy to get the word out about the SRO’s services.

“We still run across people who don’t even know we’re here even from Wetumka,” Berryhill said. “People are used to going to Okmulgee. They don’t know. Even my dad, when he found out tags were here, he’s an elder but he figured if he came here paperwork would be shuffled and that it’d be easier to make the drive to Okmulgee. He finally came here but it took him awhile.”

Tiger said she would like to see citizens get the most use out of the facility as possible.

“I feel blessed to be able to work here and work for my tribe because I remember

growing up younger, I stayed with my grandma and I remember having to go to Okmulgee and it was an all day thing,” Tiger said. “... I think what if that was my grandma or grandpa, or my mom or dad. I would want somebody to help them and do what they can.”

She listed a specific group of citizens who may benefit from the location of the SRO.

“With Okmulgee being the main office, times are tough and some of the elders don’t have rides and don’t have people to take them. Some live on monthly-income and can’t afford that extra to try to go to Okmulgee,” Tiger said.

Berryhill believes the addition of more MCN departments and services to the SRO would enhance the office’s outreach.

“I would like to see more (Creek) Nation departments come down here, even if it’s not full-time but just come. I know Social Services tried. They do a lot of services here,” Berryhill said.

A resource office is available at the SRO to provide citizens with access to computers and Internet.

Tiger said the SRO clinic has always been a great asset to the area.

“I hear a lot of people say they like the doctor here. I’ve heard of some citizens from Okmulgee coming down to this clinic.”

Berryhill wants the word spread about the services the SRO provides to the area.

“Creek Nation is getting a big footprint here,” Berryhill said. “... My family members don’t have vehicles here in town and do use this facility. That would hurt them if this office wasn’t available.”

The SRO falls under the MCN Department of Community and Human Services. For more information about the office go to: [www.facebook.com/mcndchs](http://www.facebook.com/mcndchs) or visit the website at: [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov).

## MNBE hosts battle of the bands at Riverwalk



MNN/Jessica McBride  
Members of Far From Sanity perform Aug. 29 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation owned Riverwalk amphitheater in Jenks, Okla., during the Battle of the Bands event hosted by Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise.

### Local bands compete at Riverwalk amphitheater

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

JENKS, Okla. — Twenty bands competed in the Battle of the Bands concert Aug. 29 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation owned Riverwalk business development in Jenks. Aspiring artists battled for the chance to win \$1000 cash, two hours of studio recording time and headline the Aug. 31 concert at the Riverwalk amphitheater.

Dirty Crush, of Tulsa, Okla., took home the prize and bragging rights for the event hosted by Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise.

Bands from surrounding areas played through the afternoon and evening hours against the back drop of the Arkansas River. MNBE Marketing Coordinator Molly Moore plans to continue the tradition annually.

“We’re hosting it in hopes of drawing people to the Riverwalk and business to the Riverwalk,” Moore said.

According to Moore, the event saw potential to meet that goal before it even began.

“We had calls from people from Kansas who wanted to attend,” she said.

Vendors of different varieties also joined the event, displaying their goods and services for the spectators’ enjoyment. Helicopter rides, jewelry retailers as well as an assortment of food vendors were offered. Tenants of the Riverwalk opened their doors to the attendees.

Patrons were also able to sample wine from Stable Ridge Vineyards. Stable Ridge owner Don Neal has attended events at the location in the past. He spoke about the concert and the venue.

“It’s got potential, kind of like the shopping center,” said Neal.

The bands taking part varied in age, genre and experience. Members of the band, Friday Never Ends, started their group in May. All members, from Bristow, Okla.,

are still in high school. The band’s performance at the event was lead singer Mandy Sabatini’s first live performance.

“It definitely was an adrenaline rush,” Sabatini said.

Rick Vyper, radio personality for The Edge 104.5 FM Tulsa, acted as host for the event. Judges for the competition were Rock 103.3 Tulsa’s Jill Munroe, Lynn Hernandez of 97.5 KMOD Tulsa and The Edge’s Chuck Stikl.

“This is the first time in a long time that top radio stations have been at an event together,” Moore said.

The judges critiqued each bands’ performance and advised on opportunities that each band might seek out. Far From Sanity drummer and marketer, Jamie Kucinski thanked the staff and sponsors.

“It’s a good competition. I love the variety. Everyone stands on their own,” said Kucinski.

The battle, free to the public, drew a crowd both young and old. Bands were pleased with the event, and hoped that they would be able to attend next year.

Bruce Flea, keytarist, Tristan Harznan was excited to be able to be a part of the concert.

“They always treat us real well here. We like playing here. It’s real fun,” Harznan said.

Kucinski was excited to play at the Riverwalk.

“We love the venue,” Kucinski said. “Once we got the opportunity, we’re not going to turn it down.”

The winners’ concert will be the last in the summer concert series hosted by MNBE. Other events are being planned at the Riverwalk throughout the fall and winter months.

“I would like to invite everyone back out next weekend to the concert by the winner and to keep an eye out next week for the schedule of other upcoming events,” said Moore.

The upcoming schedule will be posted on the Riverwalk Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/riverwalk.mnbe>.

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# MCN COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL EVENTS

**BRUSH ARBOR REVIVAL SET FOR SEPT. 16-21**  
MOUNDS, Okla. — Randall Indian Baptist Church is holding a Brush Arbor Revival at 6 p.m., Sept. 16-20 and 7 p.m., Sept. 21.  
There will be preaching, Creek singing, youth testimonials and refreshments nightly.  
For more information contact Tim Lowe at: 918-698-0184.

**TULSA CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY ELECTION SET FOR SEPT. 17**  
TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community 2013 officer election is set for Sept. 17 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the TCIC Community Center located at 8611 S. Union, Tulsa, OK 74132.  
Elections will be held for the following positions: board of directors vice chairperson and sergeant-at-arms and business board chairperson, secretary and treasurer.  
For more information contact TCIC at: 918-298-2464.

**OCMULGEE INDIAN CELEBRATION SET FOR SEPT. 19-24**  
OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services is holding the Ocmulgee Indian Celebration trip to Macon, Ga., scheduled Sept. 19-24.  
Each individual is responsible for their submission to be registered for a drawing to win one of 50 available seats.  
Those interested should submit their name, MCN roll and contact telephone number to the MCN Senior Services office by 5 p.m., Sept. 6.  
For more information and/or to register contact Christy Carson at: 918-732-7765.

**MCN DOH TO PROVIDE FLU IMMUNIZATIONS BEGINNING IN OCTOBER**  
OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health will be providing flu immunizations to Native American citizens within the MCN boundaries beginning in October.  
Times, dates and locations for flu clinics to be announced at a later date. Protecting your community is a shared responsibility.

**DWIGHT MISSION ALUMNI REUNION SET FOR OCT. 5**  
MARBLE CITY, Okla. — A reunion for the alumni of Dwight Mission is set for Oct. 5 at the mission dining room.  
Registration will be from 9 - 10 a.m. and the program begins at 10 a.m.  
Bring your family, school picture and friends. For more information, contact Levada Smith-Wildcat at: 918-773-3096.

**INDIAN TACO CHAMPIONSHIP SET FOR OCT. 5**  
PAWHUSKA, Okla. — The 2013 National Indian Taco Championships has been set for Oct. 5 in downtown Pawhuska. Registration is due Aug. 31 for \$25 or Sept. 30 for \$50.  
For more information or to enter contact the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce at: 918-287-1208 or email them at: Pawhuskachamber@sbcglobal.net. A Dance contest will also be held. Preliminaries start at 11 a.m. and finals will be announced some time before 4 p.m. No registration fee is required.

**INDIAN TACO SALE SET FOR OCT 5**  
TULSA, Okla. — An Indian Taco Sale is set for Oct. 5 at Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church in Tulsa from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tacos will be \$7 with iced tea included.  
**SYMPOSIUM ON MUSKOGEAN HISTORY SET FOR OCT. 10-11**  
OKMULGEE, Okla. — A symposium on Muskogean history and culture is set for Oct. 10-11 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex.  
Everyone is invited to attend this event hosted by the MCN Department of Cultural Preservation.

**LEWIS-MARSHALL RE-UNION SET FOR NOV. 30**  
OKLAHOMA CITY — A Lewis and Mandy Marshall family reunion is set for Nov. 30. More information will be given monthly until finalized.  
Family members are encouraged to submit their favorite cooking recipes so cookbooks can be made before the reunion.  
For information contact Marsha at: 405-733-3578, regarding recipes contact Lydia Fish at: 405-629-5228.

**CULTURAL PRESERVATION SEEKING PARTICIPANTS FOR SHELL CARVING CLASSES**  
OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Cultural Preservation is seeking citizens interested in participating in shell carving classes.  
Classes will be three to four hours Monday - Thursday. The exact dates will be announced depending on citizens' interest.  
Supplies and materials will be furnished and class size will be limited.  
To sign up, please call Johnnie at: 918-732-7733.

**THANK YOU**  
Simmer Hicks, Chairman of the Okfuskee Indian Community would like to say Mvto to the people who helped make the Back to School Kickball Tournament a big success and to all the people who came out. It was great to see all the kids having fun.  
A special Mvto to: The Okfuskee Indian Community, Edwin Marshall and his office and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation WIC, and Behavioral Heath Offices.

**THANK YOU**  
The family of Jonathan S. Harry would like to express our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of support each and every individual displayed during our time of grief.  
Thank you: for the multitude of prayers expressed, to each person who prepared food, everyone who assisted with both traditional and non-traditional ceremonies, to Faith Church in Glenpool and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for the overwhelming support shown to our family. To each and every on who also helped during this difficult time, we say thank you for all that you've done for our family. During a time like this, we realize how much our families and friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.  
-Mvto

**MFSI to host community screening Sept. 23**  
*Media Release*  
OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative in association with Participant Media and Active Voice, will host a community screening of 'A Place at the Table' in Okmulgee Sept. 23. The screening is part of Participant Media's "Take Your Place" Social Action Campaign, which uses the acclaimed documentary to inspire community conversations about hunger and obesity and get people involved in efforts to address this systemic problem.  
The critically acclaimed documentary 'A Place at the Table,' directed by Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush, examines the crisis of food security, hunger, obesity and food access.  
The film will be screened at the Rowe Family Life Center, located at 302 S. Seminole St. in Okmulgee, OK, starting at 5:30 p.m. This event will include a nutritious dinner, a Q&A session, and the film.  
If you are interested in attending the screening please RSVP to the MFSI main office at 918-756-5915, June Marshall at 918-752-6139, or Lynn Duke at 918-756-2701 by Sept. 20.

**2013 California Muscogee (Creek) Association gathering set for Oct. 5**  
*Media Release*  
ANAHEIM, Calif. — The 2013 annual Gathering of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association is set for Oct. 5 from 12 - 5 p.m. at the Native American United Methodist Church at 800 S. Lemon St., Anaheim, CA 92805.  
Also, all Muscogee (Creek) citizens are encouraged to update their citizenship cards to the new format through the MCN Citizenship Department. For more information about the new card contact Citizenship at: 1-800-482-1979.  
This is a pot-luck event, so please bring plenty of food, desserts and drinks to share.  
To volunteer or for more information contact Eli Grayson at: 760-534-1632.

## MCN citizens participate in Smithsonian Living Earth Festival



Muscogee (Creek) artist Dana Tiger and her son Lisan Tiger participated in the Living Earth Festival July 19-21 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

### Tiger motivates children to be creative

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dana Tiger had a memorable summer after she and her son Lisan Tiger were invited to participate in the Living Earth Festival July 19-21 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.  
During the event, Lisan, who celebrated his 18th birthday the first day of the trip, taught sculpting classes to attendees while Dana displayed her artwork.  
"Another great aspect of the show was that Muscogee citizens Tricia Fields Alexander and her daughter, Serena Todd, who together own Autumn Star Catering, were asked to cook traditional Creek foods for the masses of museum goers," Tiger said.  
"They made us proud with their dedication and talent in preparing and sharing the foods of our Nation."  
Todd even developed a new take on an old tradition.  
"Serena, who is in high school, even invented a contemporary food right on the spot by utilizing the last of the grape dumping mix with the last of the fry

bread dough, resulting in a purplish, delicious item we dubbed 'Serena Bread.' "  
The trip also allowed Dana to invite participants of her Legacy camp.  
Legacy is an organization that Dana created to inspire Native American youth about art and pursuing individual expression.  
"We were able to take kids who have participated in Legacy camps since they were in grade school but we didn't know for sure how we were going to get there until the day before the trip. So faith it would happen and monetary grants from First Peoples Fund and Muscogee Indian Community allowed us to rent a large van and away we went," Dana said.  
Dana was able to share works by her Father the late Jerome Tiger who also has permanent displays in the Museum as well as at the NMAI Museum in New York City.  
Tiger's daughter Christie also displayed her art.  
"I'd like to say a huge Mvto to all who helped make this trip a reality. All of you were with us in our hearts with your helpful spirits. It was truly a trip of a lifetime."  
"We look forward to our next artistic adventure," Dana said.

## MNBE purchases Rex's Chicken franchise



MNN/Kyla McKown

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise purchased the naming rights to Rex's Chicken franchise for \$150,000 during a signing ceremony Sept. 6 at the MNBE office in Okmulgee. MNBE CEO Woody Anderson said architectural designs are in the works for the restaurants to be placed at the Muskogee and Okmulgee Travel Plazas.  
From left to right: Rex's Chicken Master Franchisee, Curtis Branch, Rex's Chicken parent company Beautiful Brands owner David Rutkauskas, MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett, MNBE CEO Woody Anderson and David Rutkauskas' father Otto Rutkauskas.



2013 MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

PRIMARY ELECTION: SEPT. 21

GENERAL ELECTION: NOV. 2

Sam Alexander

National Council - Tulsa District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Eco (Deer)  
**Tribal Town:** Thlopthlocco Tribal Town  
**Church:** Montesoma Indian Baptist Church  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Thlopthlocco



**Education/Experience:** Graduated from North-eastern State College in 1969, graduate course hours at University of Oklahoma. Certified Public Accountant with 40 years in public accounting; owner of a small CPA practice in Wagoner. 15 years tribal experience including confirmed Tax Commissioner during tobacco compact litigation, Gaming Operations Authority Board Chair when bingo halls converted to casinos and completing eighth year on the National Council.

**Platform:** Serving as speaker of the National Council has been the crowning achievement of 20 years in this government. Before 2012 the tribal Nation was dysfunctional and mired in internal strife. The 2011 elections brought change necessary to restore communications between the branches of government and appropriate adjustments were made. The goal is to continue developing strong working relationships from within. Commercial and governmental interest has been created in Tulsa and Washington, D.C., where none existed previously.

Legislators are invited to the principal chief’s cabinet meetings, and the judicial branch appears to be on the mend. Legislators routinely communicate with tribal employees when, in the past, such conversations were prohibited.

Acquiring real estate like River Walk Crossing Shopping Center in three business days demonstrates working together efficiently. Establishing a lobbying presence in Washington, D.C. was long overdue. These winds of change restore life and establish a fresh confidence in the people.

Dode Barnett

National Council - Creek District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Hitchiti  
**Church:** Salt Creek United Methodist Church  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka  
**Education:** 1989 Graduate of Sapulpa High School/ Attended Drury University from 1989-1991



**Platform:** It has been a privilege to serve the Creek District of our great Nation this past year. I have learned a great deal and would be humbled to continue to serve you. Eldercare, education, healthcare, language and cultural preservation (including continuing to support Hickory Ground), housing and the Nation making better financial investments are at the top of my list.

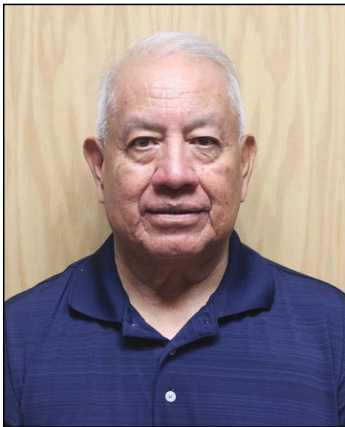
Some specific tasks I would work on if re-elected:  
Ask for better planning of Council spending, perhaps on a quarterly basis, build and diversify PROFITABLE businesses to increase the money available for tribal programs, seek to improve and simplify application process for tribal programs, work to foster development of a state approved Mvskoke language curriculum, continue to protect Mvskoke churches and ceremonial grounds and improve the grievance process for employees of tribal casinos.

I would appreciate your vote, and prayer support, in the primary election. If you have further questions email dbarnett@mcn-nsn.gov or call 918-752-7959.  
Mvto!

Wilson Bear

National Council - McIntosh District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Eufaulagee - Canadian  
**Church:** Non- Denominational  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Eufaulagee



**Education:** B.S. in Psychology/Sociology

**Platform:**  
Fair and Open Government: I believe that openness in government is the basis for accountability, improved decision making, public and employee trust and informed participation. An open government provides the public and its employees' easy access to information that educates and informs. An open government listens to all the people affected by its actions.

No one person or group affected by the tribe’s actions has a greater right to be heard than anyone else. I will utilize the tribal citizens and employees as sources of creative ideas and effective solutions. I will work with the communities to clarify the authorities and responsibilities of the communities.

Economic Development: We have not utilized our resources to their full potential in the past. I will work hard to correct this in the future. Health: We need new clinics, new equipment and more health personnel. Social Services: I will help to improve the Nation's delivery system of Social Services to all citizens.

Joyce Deere

National Council - Muskogee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Kvssetv  
**Church:** Fife Indian United Methodist Church  
**Family:** Her parents are Napoleon B. Moore and Narcissa Wilson. She is the mother of Mark, Acee, and Taryn Allen; and Nana to Robert, Bailee, Sarah, and Blayne Allen and Joseph Shoemake. She was married for 19 years to the late Lyle K. Deere.



**Experience:** She is a leader in her local church and has served the United Methodist Women of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church as President, Secretary, and Social Action Coordinator and as a Member of the Committee on Nominations on the South Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team for UMW. She currently serves on the OIMC Council for Local Church Ministries.

She retired from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, with 39 1/2 years of service. Her work experience includes positions in Tribal Government Services, the Office of Self-Determination Services, Real Estate Services and as staff assistant to the regional director for the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office.

She is an active member of the Muscogee Indian Community, serving as the chair of the Activities and Cultural Committee, and also as a sponsor/advisor for the Explorer Program of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse.

**Platform:** Joyce is willing and able to continue a life of service. As a civil servant with the Federal Government, she was fortunate to work with and for our Indian people. Her career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs has provided her with the education and experience needed to continue helping Indian people, in particular, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

As a representative of the National Council, she will be a proponent of fiscal control, economic development and delivery of services; an advocate for preservation of our language, culture, traditional churches and ceremonial grounds; and she will uphold the Constitution and defend our status as a sovereign Nation.

Mvto!

Lizanne Holata

National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Hecete  
**Church:** Big Cussetah United Indian Methodist Church  
**Family:** My husband and I have been together for 33 years and are the parents of three and grandparents of five.



**Education/Experience:** I am a life long member of Big Cussetah United Indian Methodist, chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, board member of the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, chairperson for Morris Indian Community and community member of the Morris Community Action Team. I have an Associates in Applied Science.

**Platform:** I’ve worked for you in the Nation as staff and friend and have been the voice for many as I’ve helped guide you through the process for solutions to many problems. I am here to say I’ll work hard for you through solid research and good communication. I appreciate your prayers and your vote.

Mvto.

Mitch Jack

National Council - Okfuskee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Konovlke (Skunk)  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Alvpamv Mososwa (Alabama)



**Experience:** Dustin High School, College of the Muscogee Nation

**Platform:** I am dedicated to the care and responsibility to all generations of the Mvskoke people. Living in two worlds allows me to see the different needs of traditional & non-traditional citizens of the tribe. Being bi-lingual allows me the opportunity to communicate with our elders.

If elected as your representative, I would like to focus on economic growth and development, health care, elder and youth outreach, tribal youth council for our children, etc. I feel that this is a full-time job and will be solely focused on working with and listening to the concerns of the Mvskoke people. I value everyone's input to strengthen our Nation.

Mvto!



## James Jennings

### National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka  
**Church:** Second Baptist Church, Okmulgee  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka  
**Family:** I am one-half Creek, son of the late Pearline Day, Married to wife, Joyce for 45 years. We have three sons and five grandchildren. Resident of Okmulgee for 35 years.



**Education:** Graduate from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. U.S. Army Veteran-Military policeman from 1967-1970 with an honorable discharge. Recently retired from Southern Millwork after 42 years employment as a master cabinetmaker. National Council from 2006-2011. Served on Human Development Committee, Fact-finding Committee, Internal Affairs Committee, ExAffico Board of Regents of the College of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Missed one meeting during this period of service to the Nation.

**Platform:** 1. Educational opportunities: Higher Education, Vo-Tech, on the job training. 2. Seniors: health issues, housing, special needs. 3. Preserve our language and culture, protect our sovereignty. 4. Positive atmosphere so the Nation can move forward as a whole.

## Keeper Johnson

### National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Kvchv (Tiger)  
**Tribal Town:** Coweta  
**Church:** Belvin Baptist Church, Okmulgee  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Green Leaf  
**Family:** I am married to Martha Washee Johnson and have two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



**Education:** High School Graduate, Bachelor’s Degree, Master’s Degree

**Platform:** I continue to sponsor legislation for our Muscogee people for health and education. This is of utmost concern for our Muscogee people. My education includes a high school diploma from Fort Sill Indian School, Lawton Okla., a Bachelor’s Degree from Western Kentucky University, and a Master’s Degree from Oklahoma State University. While in the United States Army, I was stationed at the Army Medical/Research Laboratory in Fort Knox, Ky., and received an honorable discharge. I retired from the State of Oklahoma after 28 years service as a vocational rehabilitation counselor. I am a member of Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee, Okla. I teach the adult sunday school and children’s church. I am also an ordained deacon. I am presently your Okmulgee District representative and would like to continue to serve you.

## Adam Jones III

### National Council - McIntosh District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Coweta  
**Church:** Little Coweta Indian Baptist Church  
**Family:** My wife is Amanda Jones and we have five children: Christian, Jordan, Adam, Abigail and Elijah. We live in Stidham, Okla. My parents are Adam Jones Jr. and Mary Jane Jones of Stidham.



**Experience:** I have had the privilege of representing our citizens for the last six years. I truly work hard for our Nation to seek new economic development, jobs and diversity.

**Platform:** My goals as a representative are to find new opportunities. I believe we have new opportunities ahead with the new partnerships, Willowheart. They do 8A work in the construction field. We have been stagnate for too long. Other tribes have 8A contracts from millions to hundreds of millions. This will crate many jobs and dollars that we need as a Nation. This is what we need, to help with programs as our Nation grows. I will also strive to help our health system get better and faster. We are looking to build a new hospital and clinic for our citizens. It has been a long time coming for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to excel and flourish! Our time is now!

## Rodney Josie

### National Council - Tulsa District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Deer  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Weogvfke (Muddy Waters)



**Education:** (AS): Business Administration; 13 years of experience working with NAHASDA, HUD and other housing related policies and programs; 10 years of experience working as an environmental professional; eight years of experience working with historic and cultural preservation; 15 years of experience in construction budgeting and contracting.

**Platform:** “I believe Muscogee Creek Nation should be seeking ways to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.” If elected I will use my knowledge and skills obtained through working experience, as well as a strong desire to implement this belief. My experience with housing programs gives me an insight to overcome difficult obstacles and a vision for solutions to create a more efficient housing program. As an environmental professional, I will help ensure that the tribe remains earth friendly for all tribal projects and activities. I also believe that the tribe can benefit from my knowledge in construction to help make sound construction related project decisions. Other issues of interest are: well-being for the elderly, education, cultural preservation, youth services and improved emergency assistance. These are all important issues and if elected I intend to work diligently toward the improvement and establishment of policies to improve the everyday life of all Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

## Eddie LaGrone

### National Council - Muskogee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Katcvlke  
**Tribal Town:** Tuckabatchee  
**Church:** Little Quarsarty  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Green Leaf



**Education/Experience:** Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration/Economics, Masters in Business Administration, Management-in progress, specialized training and experience in tribal sovereignty, tribal taxation, tribal jurisdiction, Indian law and legislative process, member of the Federal Bar Association, past member of the board of directors for the Five Civilized Tribes Museum.

Thirty-two years of accomplished service in tribal affairs specializing in federal Indian law at the federal and tribal level. Negotiated with U.S. Department of Agriculture and implemented the first Tribal Food Commodity Program in the state of Oklahoma in 1980. Served 17 years as tribal government services specialist/program analyst with the BIA assisting, tribal governments in P.L. 93-638 contracting and program operation. Served on the BIA Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office Self-Governance Negotiation Team in negotiating Compacts and tribal shares for Annual Funding Agreements.

Served as Acting Superintendant at BIA Talihina Agency advising Indian clients on oil and gas, real property, and other Trust and Fiduciary matters. Served as special assistant to the BIA Osage Agency Superintendant for establishing an Osage Tribal Constitutional form of government. IPA appointment as Muscogee (Creek) Nation senior policy analyst to the principal chief. Provided expert advice on tribal sovereignty, protection of tribal resources, and drafted bills and resolutions for MCN Council enactment.

Researched, planned, implemented, and negotiated Self-Governance Compact for the MCN. Appointed by the White House to serve on the U.S. Department of the Interior Negotiated Rule Making Committee for establishing Indian royalty rates. Created the MCN Historic Preservation Office.

## Francis Morgan

### National Council - Creek District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Nuyaka  
**Military:** U.S. Army - Five years  
**Family:** Two children - J.C. and Tiana, mother and father - Josephine and Louis Morgan



**Education/Experience:** Bacone and NEOSU

**Platform:** Eligibility for the grant award, allocated every four years for our ceremonial grounds and churches is subject to restrictions and requirements. An application to release funds is submitted to the Council. Once approved, the check signed and released, the money spent, all records are then turned into the Muscogee (Creek) Nation controller. Unexpended funds are deposited back into the tribal treasury. Should the records not be turned in as required, recipients will not be eligible for a grant for five to ten years.

Funding for our beloved churches/ceremonial grounds are held to such standards and accountability; shouldn’t the STEHETKE contractors be held to the same standards?

Our council is appropriating hundreds of thousands of dollars without solid records or pertinent information. This IS NOT good business nor does it serve the best interest of our citizens. As your representative, I will not forget whose interests I have been elected to represent.

## Tom Pickering

### National Council - McIntosh District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Sweet Potato  
**Tribal Town:** Hitchiti  
**Church:** West Eufaula Indian Missionary Baptist Church  
**Family:** Two children - J.C. and Tiana, mother and father - Josephine and Louis Morgan



**Education/Experience:** Sequoyah High School, Central Tech, Oklahoma State University Tech, Bacone College, Northeastern State University, 17 years experience in Tribal Council, Chairman of various committees of the National Council, Chairman of Eufaula Indian Community for eight years, Member of Health Board for many years, Member of Roads Committee, Chairman of Economic Development on Council, Business Owner, Business Consultant, Created many successful businesses, very knowledgeable of tribal government

**Platform:** The Creek Tribe has grown in population over the years and so has its needs. Our elder people is one that’s grown a lot especially and has great needs such as health, housing and other needs. Our young people and children are also in need of programs to help achieve success. Decisions that were made 15 and 20 years ago are what our tribe are benefitting from today.

With your vote and support I will use my experience to address and legislate programs and successful businesses to build revenue. These programs will reflect the needs of communities, elders, children and families. We need to relieve stress and worry for our elders and young. Our primary needs are in health, education, social programs and jobs.



# Mark Randolph

## National Council - Wagoner, Mayes, Rogers District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Fuswv  
**Tribal Town:** Nuyakv  
**Church:** New Joy Church

**Education/Experience:** Associates of Arts - Haskell Indian Nations University, Bachelors in Social Work - University of Kansas, Masters in Social Work - University of Kansas

It is a great honor to serve as a National Council representative for the last 14 months. I have 100% attendance for Council Meetings/Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meetings. I sit on several committees and continue to serve as an agent of positive change for the great Mvskoke (Creek) Nation. I will continue to serve all citizens of all ages inside and outside our boundaries. I believe in the strengths perspective and empowerment. Our people are our greatest asset and prayer is our greatest strength.



# Pearl Chalakee-Thomas

## National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Cheyaha Tribal Town  
**Church:** Honey Creek Indian Methodist Church  
**Family:** She and her late husband, Velvin (Pod) Thomas are the parents of Randy Thomas and wife Angela and Patricia and her husband Brian Kilian. They have one granddaughter, Jennifer Kilian and one grandson, Andrew Thomas, a great-granddaughter, Alea Lynn Thomas and a great grandson, Levi Dean Thomas. Her parents are the late Ruben and Peggy (Sunny) Chalakee. Her grandparents were the late Thomas and Mulsie Chalakee and Walter and Ellen (Barnett) Sunny.

**Education/Experience:** She attended Rocky Hill Elementary and graduated from Nuyaka High School in 1960. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Northeastern State University. She retired from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation after 18 years of experience working in different programs of the tribe.

During my journey as your representative, I have met so many good citizens of all ages across the great Muscogee Nation. I served on the Community Services & Cultural Committee the first two years and on the Health, Education and Welfare Committee these past two years. The current administration and the National Council have vigorously worked together to provide better services in the area of elderly housing, economic development, social services and health care for our people.

There is still a need for jobs for our people, adequate housing for our elderly and other eligible citizens. The only promise that I made to you four years ago was that I would represent you to the very best of my ability and I feel I have done that and will continue to do so.

MVTO!



# Virginia Thomas

## National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Wotko  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka Tribal Town  
**Church:** Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church, enjoys visiting Cedar Creek Baptist, Springtown Methodist and Honey Creek Methodist Churches

**Education/Experience:** Bachelor of Arts in Education from San Diego State University with an Elementary Teaching Certificate

**Platform:** I am like you. I want my voice heard and my concerns acted upon. I envision the Muscogee Nation becoming the leading tribe in serving its citizens as well as developing sustainable financial developments. I believe my experience can make a positive difference within the National Council and bring about these changes. My platform is founded on my experience in education and the welfare of American Indian students.

My 43 years of working with our local school districts and advocating on a national level for increased funding for the Johnson-O'Malley and Title VII programs provides me the much needed knowledge. Indian Child Welfare is also close to my heart and I would like to see the Muscogee Nation take an active role to ensure that our children are given every opportunity to grow in a healthy loving environment. I offer you my talents and ask for your support.



# Lucian Tiger

## National Council - Tulsa District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Wind

**Education/Experience:** I am a graduate of Kellyville High School. I also attended Connors State College as well as Oklahoma State University.  
**Family:** I am the son of Lucian (Sonny) Tiger II, grandson of Jo Ella Tiger and Lucian Tiger, the great grandson of Lucinda (Allen) Tiger-Johnson and Porter Tiger.

**Platform:** I believe that in order for our Nation to continue moving forward we must project better returns on our investments and resources. Our Nation is growing through economic development. However, I believe that we also need to invest more into the programs that are already in place for our citizens.

We are a great Nation with great people and I believe that if we all work together and hold each other accountable as representatives anything is possible. If elected as your councilman I will make our Nation and our people my priority.

MVTO



# Carol Williams

## National Council - Tulsa District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Echáswv (Beaver)  
**Tribal Town:** Locvpocv (Turtle)  
**Church:** Lexington Road Family Worship Center  
**Ceremonial Ground:** New Tulsa  
**Family:** I am five-eighths Muscogee (Creek) and my parents were Gladys Bland who was full-blood and Lewis McHenry who was one-quarter Creek. My maternal grandparents were Jeanetta Haikey and Louis Bland who were full-blood Creek. My paternal grandparents were Jesse McHenry (one-half Creek) and Louise Partridge. Jesse was the brother of Lewis, Dave, John, Walter and Onis McHenry and Abby McHenry Moore. I have been married to Ron Williams for 51 years. We have four children: Rhanna Simmons, Karrie Phillips, Candy Lillig and Shawn Williams. We have 18 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

**Education:** I have 10 years experience as a Computer Software System Analyst with The Williams Companies and recently retired from AT&T Wireless after thirteen years of service as a Customer Service Representative. I served on the National Council 2010 – 2011. I am a member of Tulsa Creek Indian Community and currently serve as Board of Directors Treasurer. I acquired a Associate Degree in Computer Science Programming from Tulsa Community College while working full time, and raising four children who were very active in: sports, FFA, marching band, cheerleading and participation in rodeos.

I have excellent research and analytical skills and am very self motivated and am good at multitasking. I have the interest of my people at heart. Health, housing, higher education, social services and economic development are where I would like to direct my efforts in serving my people. I am retired so I can devote my time to the duties and requirements of a Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative and ALL Creek citizens. Myto, Carol McHenry Williams, kalcvwms@yahoo.com, 918-445-8820 home, 918-520-9154 mobile.



# Lena Wind

## National Council - Okfuskee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Alabama/Quassarte  
**Church:** New Beginnings, Henryetta - Home Church: High Springs, Okemah

**Education/Experience:** 10 years with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, 10 years as a public school teacher, B.S.E.D. from Northeastern State University, M.A.E.D Oklahoma City University, 15 years administration of tribal programs including: Indian Child Welfare (Program Director, Foster Care/Adoption), Child Care Director, Director of Social Services (LIHEAP, Safe & Stable Families), JOM program Liaison

**Platform:** Greetings Muscogee Citizens, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve you for over nine years. I give my God the Creator all the glory for everything accomplished during this time of service! I've been and will continue to be a strong voice in support of citizen's needs, communities, educational endeavors and economic development!

It's amazing to see ideas and plans that I have been involved in become a reality, such as the upcoming 122,000 sq. ft. hospital to be built in Okemah, community buildings (Okemah, Okfuskee) and the Dental Clinic in Okemah, which I sponsored legislatively. I am very proud of the cooperative effort that the current administration and legislative branch has exhibited, this cooperation has provided for more expedient and better service to our citizens! I believe the Lord has much more work for me to do. I ask for your vote!

For more info: [www.reelectlenawind.com](http://www.reelectlenawind.com)

God's Blessings To You! MVTO, Lena Lee Wind



# Thomas Yahola

## National Council - Tukvpytce District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Deer  
**Tribal Town:** Thlopthlocco  
**Church:** Montesuma  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Tahlahvse

**Education/Experience:** Wetumka High School, Bacone College, Northeastern State University, Retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Tulsa District, multiple terms with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, speaker of the National Council for two terms and second speaker for one, National Council chairman of the Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee and Human Development.

**Platform:** Experience Counts: It has been my honor to serve for "Service for the Betterment of the Nation." This has been evident by regular attendance at local community meetings, assigned committees and National Council meetings. Also, meeting with citizens on issues and working with the Executive Branch. Some noted accomplishments: Sponsored legislation for water line services to Little Wewoka Methodist Church and the town of Dustin, Okla.

Also, sponsored legislation for the present Southern Regional Office, which provides various tribal services, the establishment of the Food Distribution Center and SIP Plant. However, there is more to be done and I humbly ask for your vote on Sept. 21. Remember...

EXPERIENCE COUNTS! MVTO!







# ATTN: -MUSCOGEE VETERANS- MOTORCYCLE RIDERS



**Situation:** Yearly Veterans motorcycle ride is approaching.

**Mission:** Veteran motorcyclists will dine and watch movie at Admiral Twin Drive-In.

**Execution:** Veteran motorcyclists and 1 guest riding with veteran will:

1. Assemble at MCN Veterans building (VASO) at 1400 on FRIDAY, 4 OCT 13.
2. Group will depart VASO at 1500 and proceed to the restaurant - Ron's Hamburgers, 4909 S. Peoria Avenue (2 blocks north of I-44) Tulsa, OK.
3. At 1730 group will depart restaurant and proceed to the Admiral Twin Drive-In, 7355 E. Easton St, Tulsa, OK.
4. Between 2200 and 2300 group will depart Drive-In theater and travel back to VASO.
5. Rain Dates: FRIDAY 11 OCT 13 or FRIDAY 18 OCT 13; if rain chance is 30% or more rain dates will be in effect.

**Administrative:** VASO will pay for dinner and admission to movie for veteran and 1 guest.

1. Veteran must be Muscogee (Creek) citizen.
2. Veteran allowed 1 guest and guest must be on motorcycle with veteran.
3. Refreshments at Drive-In theater will be responsibility of veteran.
4. VASO's company car will be trace vehicle.
5. Veterans must bring their vest; VASO will transport vests in car.
6. Vest must be worn at restaurant and Drive-In theater.

**Communication:** Muscogee Veterans please call Ken Davis or Shawn Taryole by Thursday, 1700, 3 Oct 13 to register for the event at phone numbers: (918) 732-7739 or (918) 732-7745.



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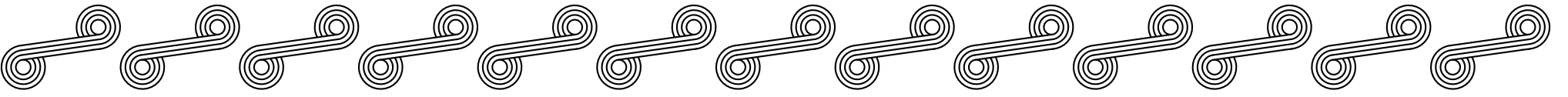
## INSIDE THE MNN:

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MAKE STRIDES**

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# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKEKE MEDIA

## Precinct reports larger turnout for MCN Council primaries

**OCT. 1, 2013**  
**VOL. 43, ISSUE 19**  
**"OTOWOSKYRAKKO"**  
**BIG CHESTNUT**



### Tulsa polls see more voters for district primary election

**Christina Good Voice**  
*Mvskeke Media Manager*

TULSA, Okla. — More than 2,300 registered Muscogee (Creek) voters cast their ballots in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation primary election Sept. 21, resulting in the election of four National Council representatives to Seat B of four districts and placing six candidates in a runoff for three seats in three other districts, according to unofficial results from the MCN Election Board.

Election Board officials stressed that the results would be unofficial until Sept. 27 at 5 p.m.

Election results were: Creek District: Dode Barnett took 68 percent of the vote over Frances Morgan; Muskogee District: Joyce C. Deere took 70 percent over 'Eddie' LaGrone; McIntosh District: Adam Jones III won with 52 percent of the votes over Wilson Bear and Tom Pickering; Tukvpytce District: Thomas Yahola took 65 percent of the votes over Martha Givens.

Runoff elections will be held Nov. 2 for the Okmulgee, Tulsa and Okfuskee Districts.

In the Okmulgee District, James



MNN/Gerald Wofford

The Tulsa Creek Indian Community polling center reported a higher voter turnout Sept. 21, than in years past for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Seat B primary election.

Jennings and Pearl Thomas will be vying for the council seat. Jennings received 36 percent of the votes and Thomas took 22 percent over the remaining contenders Lizanne Holata, Keeper Johnson Sr. and Virginia Thomas.

In the Tulsa District, Samuel Alexander (24 percent) and Lucian Tiger III (39 percent) will be in the runoff. The two had the highest percentage of votes over Rodney Josie and Carol McHenry Williams.

In the Okfuskee District, Mitch

Jack (34 percent) and Lena Wind (37 percent) will be in the runoff. Celesta Johnson had 28 percent of the votes.

Voters also approved an amendment (NCA-13-031) to the tribal constitution that will add one Supreme Court judge. The amendment was approved with 1,690 citizens voting 'yes' and 664 voting 'no.'

The other amendment on the ballot (NCA 13-042,) which proposed amending language in the constitution that would

allow eligible voters (resident and absentee) to vote for the National Council representatives solely within their own district, failed by a vote 1,565 to 818 because it didn't receive two-thirds of the 2,383 votes.

Unofficial results also include all challenge ballots cast at the precincts.

The MCN Election Board reports 16,281 registered voters, yet only a little more than 2,380

**ELECTION - 2**

### Leaders in Training hosts rally for MCN elections

**Event encourages voter turnout**

**Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter**

OKMULGEE, Okla. — More than 50 Muscogee (Creek) citizens and staff attended the Shake the Vote Voter Rally Sept. 20 at the McCombs Building on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The event hosted by Enhomattv Semvheckvike or Leaders in Training, was put on to encourage Muscogee (Creek) citizens to vote in the MCN National Council Seat B elections.

The MCN National Council primary election was held Sept. 21 and the general election is set for Nov. 2. The ballot for the primaries also featured two proposed amendments. One amendment proposed the elimination of at-large voting for National Council representatives and the other asked whether or not a seventh justice should be added to the MCN Supreme Court.

The rally featured snacks, door prizes, T-shirts and election trivia questions for attendees.

MCN Community and Human Services Director Cherrah Giles, who is a member of Leaders in Training, said the event was an opportunity to inform citizens about the election.

"This is to motivate, encourage people and remind them to vote tomorrow that still have to vote in the precinct election," Giles said. "That's the push, is to get them excited about it like a pep rally."

MCN citizen, Shavon McClenathan, attended the rally and said she hopes to get more citizens involved in the election. She also shared her views regarding at-large representation within the National Council.

"I do think it's good everyone is able to contact whoever they want to help represent them,"

**RALLY - 2**

## Tribes meet with Oklahoma Native legislators

### Tribal and Native state representatives discuss legislative initiatives

**Gary Fife**  
*MNN Editorial Assistant*

TULSA, Okla. — Native American members of the Oklahoma State House of Representatives met with over a dozen tribal representatives to talk about tribal concerns and priorities Sept. 16, during the first annual United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas convention at the River Spirit Casino Event Center in Tulsa.

The forum provided an opportunity for the two groups to meet with one another and discuss how to coordinate effectively on the state level.

There are 26 members of the Native American Caucus in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives, which meets on a monthly basis to discuss current tribal issues.



MNN/Gary Fife

Jerry McPeak, Oklahoma State Rep. and Tax Commissioner for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, spoke Sept. 16, during the first annual United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas convention at the River Spirit Casino Event Center in Tulsa.

The membership of the caucus is split about halfway between Republicans and Democrats.

Oklahoma State Rep. Dan Kirby of District 75 is chair of the Native caucus and a Mus-

cogee (Creek) citizen. Kirby acknowledged that the relationship between the state and tribal governments has not always been ideal in the past but said that it is steadily im-

proving.

"It may be at times, adversarial and some of the things that we worked for have not come to pass maybe and its been difficult at points on some of the issues that we have resolved and worked through. It is getting better and better as we educate the legislature and the governor and her office."

Kirby said some of the thinking he encounters is still fairly antiquated and provided an example of how difficult this education process can be.

"I just told a story about one of the legislators who had no idea of how the make up of our hiring practices and how we make things work. There's still a big job ahead of us in educating people as to what our economic impact is in Oklahoma."

For Kirby, part of this process includes reminding his

**UINOKT - 3**





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ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

voters made it to the polls for the primary election.

One district reported higher voting numbers at that particular precinct compared to past district elections.

"We were really pleased with our turnout; we had more voters with this election than the previous one," said Inspector Leona Fish, who was working at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center.

Candidates winning their district elections will be sworn in at a special session at the beginning of 2014, according to MCN Nation Council Secretary Kristie Sewell.

*Gerald Wofford contributed to this report*

MCN Scholarship Foundation Program, TERO host open house



MNN/Jessica McBride  
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation celebrated the opening of offices for the Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program and the Tribal Employment Rights Office with a ribbon cutting and open house Sept. 18 at the MCN Education and Training Building.

New departments promote services

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation celebrated the opening of offices for the Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program and the Tribal Employment Rights Office with a ribbon cutting and open house Sept. 18 at the MCN Education and Training Building.

The two departments have recently been created to further services for tribal members.

MCN Scholarship Program Director Dr. Pete Coser helped establish the certified non-profit foundation from the ground up. Several scholarships are available to citizens and the program is working on further logistical improvements.

"We pretty much have everything implemented, just coming back to fine tune everything," Coser said.

According to Coser, the program will provide scholarships to advance educational opportunities and the potential for the provision of grants to citizens for research and initiatives.

The Scholarship Program funds scholarships differently than the MCN Higher Education Administration. Higher Education receives federal and tribal funds to provide scholarships, while the Scholarship Program utilizes fundraising.

"The Hall of Fame Gala, we're part of that," Coser said. "Plus, that's one of our biggest fundraisers."

Anyone can make a donation to the program. Contributors to the MCN Scholarship Program are eligible for a tax deduction. The donations can go to a current scholarship or new scholarship and can be restricted to meet donor's wishes.

Currently, Coser is piloting a program for MCN employees to be able to donate through payroll deduction.

"I wrote an employee program. I'm pilot testing that," Coser said. "I haven't launched it yet. I'm doing a pilot study to see how that works and so; it's been working out well."

Coser is taking courses in fundraising at the University of Indiana to help him further the goal of the program. He plans to implement a direct mail campaign to Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Coser

would also like to visit with MCN employees and vendors about opportunities to contribute to the program.

For more information on the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program visit their website at: [www.creeknationfoundation.org](http://www.creeknationfoundation.org) or contact them at: 918-732-7728.

MCN TERO was created through tribal legislation to help create and enforce a system, which gives preference to Native-owned businesses for employment and contractual opportunities with the Nation. The basic function of the department is to identify and certify Creek and Native-owned companies so that they can benefit from MCN contracts and procurement.

A business must be at least 51 percent Native-owned to become TERO certified.

TERO Director Rob Daugherty says that the preferential system is not new to MCN, but that the TERO program helps with enforcement.

"For us it's a win-win situation. We have a Native-owned company, hopefully a Creek-owned company doing business with the tribe," Daugherty said.

Every tribe does not offer a TERO program, and Daugherty says that the TERO rules can vary depending on the tribe. Even though the program has been created, non-Native businesses can still compete for contracts with MCN.

"I always say I wear two hats. One which is TERO to promote our certified vendors and the other hat is a Muscogee (Creek) Nation hat, that I have to protect the financial interest of the tribe," Daugherty said.

MCN TERO will also be creating a job bank for potential employees to be used by certified vendors or any business that is looking for minority employees.

"We're not an employment agency. We keep a list of skilled and unskilled labor force," said Daugherty. "Out of the TERO fees that we have, we provide specialized training and just training for tribal citizens."

The training helps to qualify citizens for potential employment opportunities.

A listing of the TERO certified vendors and more information about services that MCN TERO provides can be found at: [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Tero/tero.html](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Tero/tero.html) or call: 918-549-2965.

RALLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
Leaders in Training member Justin Giles speaks with an attendee during the Shake the Vote Voter Rally Sept. 20.

McClenathan said. "Someone may not be as helpful in one district, so they're able to go to someone else not necessarily in their district for help."

McClenathan believes that district representation could provide an advantage to a candidate if that candidate's family members make up a significant portion of the voters in their district.

"If it wasn't at-large, you'd have some family members voting one person in," McClenathan said. "Then you'll have one group of people voting someone in and at large; it's everybody."

MCN citizen, David Jimboy, said he feels that the at-large voting should be changed back to the district voting.

"At-large voting, I rather it go

back to district but in the long run, they're all representing the whole Nation regardless of districts," Jimboy said. "I don't know if it will pass or not but I like the idea that you have your district representatives. You know who they are and who to vote for."

MCN Office of the Secretary Executive Assistant Monnie Underwood was fairly pleased with the turnout for the rally.

"Really good turnout," Underwood said. "I'd like to see more but we got quite a few. It's definitely something to do again."

Like the Shake the Campaign on Facebook at: [www.Facebook.com/EveryMvskokeVoteCounts](http://www.Facebook.com/EveryMvskokeVoteCounts) or follow on Twitter at: [www.Twitter.com/MvskokeVoter](http://www.Twitter.com/MvskokeVoter).

Highway dedicated to Code Talkers



Photo Courtesy of Indiana University  
A ceremony was held Sept. 6 to dedicate Oklahoma Highway 3 to 19 WWI Choctaw Code Talkers.

Highway 3 renamed after WWI heroes

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

ANTLERS, Okla. — The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Choctaw Code Talkers Association and the State of Oklahoma held a dedication ceremony Sept. 6 honoring 19 Choctaw Code Talkers by naming Oklahoma State Highway 3 the WWI Choctaw Code Talkers Highway.

The 55-mile portion of highway begins right off the Indian Nations Turnpike in Antlers and runs to Broken Bow, Okla.

The WWI Choctaw Code Talkers, or Telephone Warriors were the first Native Americans to use their Native language during times of war. The code originated with some Choctaw soldiers being overheard speaking in their Native tongue while they were stationed in France.

U.S. officers began utilizing the Choctaw language as code on the front lines and at command posts so that German forces could not understand their correspondences and therefore could not discover the location of their troops.

Nuchi Nashoba, President of the Choctaw Code Talkers Association, spoke about this historic day.

"Today is a very wonderful and historic day," Nashoba said. "Not only for the Choctaw Code Talker descendants but also for the Choctaw Nation as a whole. We are all proud that today has happened."

A majority of the code talk-

ers who served in WWI lived in southeastern Oklahoma. Of the 19 code talkers, 14 of them walked the highway. Some descendants of these code talkers still live on or near this highway today.

Oklahoma State Rep. R. C. Pruett, Choctaw Nation Principal Chief Gregory Pyle and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council helped push legislation through to get the name changed in honor of the code talkers.

According to an article from the 'Antlers American,' a captured German officer confessed that his intelligence personnel, "were completely confused by the Indian language and gained no benefit whatsoever from their wiretaps."

Assistant Chief Gary Batton was also on hand to speak to the crowd for the dedication of this highway.

"We are finally seeing the state and everyone else are recognizing our code talkers in what they have done in the history of the United States. Once people knew the story, they embraced it," Batton said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Director of Veteran Affairs Services Offices Ken Davis is happy about the dedication.

"I am very pleased that the State of Oklahoma honored the World War I Choctaw Code Talkers," Davis said. "This group made significant contributions into the winning of this war. Without the language and the soldiers able to speak the language, who knows how it would have turned out."



# UINOKT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

colleagues how influential Native Americans are as constituents and what they provide to the rest of the state.

“How many citizens we have in Oklahoma that can make up a voting bloc. What we do for roads and bridges, health care, education, those types of things.”

Kirby believes that there has been some progress in this process as well.

“There’s still a job for us to get that information out. But, slowly but surely, I think we’re working on it and it has gotten better in the last few years.”

One of the most visible issues of the last couple of years has been the completion of the American Indian Cultural Center in Oklahoma City. The center has been in the construction phase for more than seven years, after the idea was conceived more than 20 years ago. Funding for the museum has been contested in the legislature, which left it half completed.

Kirby agreed it was a high profile issue but not necessarily the most important.

“There was always the tobacco compacts, other things

effective actually. One of the reasons we started the Native American caucus was that very reason, to help them recognize there were a number of Native Americans that were in the caucus and help them realize what impact we had in Oklahoma; what percentage of Oklahoma we really are.”

He also believes that progress is being made in this are but regarded this advancement as “slow.”

“We’re doing better. I think we’re gaining ground. Nothing happens very quickly in the capitol, in politics, really in the world. But, we’re gaining ground but it is slow,” McPeak said.

In measuring the Native issues being examined by the state legislature, McPeak believes that healthcare tops the list.

“When I got in the legislature ten years ago, I recognized that was the largest problem we had in the United States. I spend a lot of money travelling around the United States trying to find some answers. I found out it was way too big for us to grasp or grapple with at the state level.”

McPeak has not overlooked

**“AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, OVER TEN BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ECONOMIC IMPACT FROM THE COLLECTIVE TRIBES TO THE STATE ECONOMY.”**

**-OKLAHOMA STATE REP. DAN KIRBY**

that are going on in Indian country, health care, education.”

According to Kirby, the economic clout of tribal governments has gained the attention of state legislators.

“I think they’re coming around. As I mentioned earlier, over \$10 billion worth of economic impact from the collective tribes to the state economy.”

The work of the Native American Caucus has made some inroads in gaining support for Native issues in the legislature. Kirby pointed to a bill regarding tribally owned insurance companies as an example.

“I had House Bill 1343 last year, which we presented to the caucus and said, ‘hey, this is something that we need to get behind because it would affect tribes owning their own insurance companies.’ So, they helped pass this bill, we got it passed through the House, we worked and got it passed through the Senate.”

He mentioned another piece of Native legislation that is currently a work in progress.

“So maybe next year we may be working on a Native American holiday, which I think is something that’s, I think, pretty important and we have the support from the caucus for that so look for that next year,” said Kirby

Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak, of District 13 who is also tax commissioner for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has served in the state legislature for a decade.

McPeak regards past relations between tribes and the state legislature as poor and feels that the caucus must inform his colleagues of the true picture regarding the current contributions made by tribal governments.

“You know, in the past, I don’t think it has been very

the construction of the American Indian Cultural Center in Oklahoma City. McPeak said it was time for the state to complete its task.

“The one that gets to me the quickest is the cultural center. Indians have done what they said they would do. I know I’m going to sound like an Indian when I say this and I’m proud of that, but I would say this if I was pure white: the government didn’t do what they said they would do again. Indians have come up with the money, so they’re saying it’s going to cost a lot more now.”

He believes that the state should take responsibility for this project.

“That’s not anyone’s fault but their own for not putting the money up when they should have. So, you made the deal, keep your word,” McPeak said.

McPeak is confident that legislation for the cultural center would pass, barring one detail.

“They won’t even bring it up for a vote. I think if it came up for a vote it would pass. I’m not sure why the speaker or the speaker pro tem of the Senate won’t bring it up for a vote, but if it comes up for a vote; it will pass.”

McPeak predicts that more tribal governments will exercise their political and economic clout to lobby the state legislature.

“We’ve seen more tribes there each year than we saw the year before. The unification is extremely important. This group here today is very, very, important. They’re absolutely right. If they ever unify, I’m trying to get them to do that on compacts.”

The UINOKT convention featured forums on: the Affordable Health Care Act and taxation impacts, tribal enterprises and health and human services.

## MCN SBDC receives loan, grant money from USDA



MNN/Kyla McKown

(Left to right) J.D. Colbert, Chairman of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Small Business Development Center Board of Directors; Jody Harris, U.S. Department of Agriculture Business and Community Programs Specialist; MCN Principal Chief George Tiger; MCN SBDC Manager John Blue and Al Wilson, SBDC Board Member.

### Money to go toward helping citizens develop small businesses

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Small Business Development Center received a \$500,000 loan and \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The MCN SBDC, which started up in January, has worked over the past year to receive grants and funding in order to begin offering small business loans for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

The \$100,000 USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grant funds training for entrepreneurs, the SBDC Board and citizens looking to start a business.

Although small business loans are not projected to be available until October or November, citizens have still been able to utilize the program.

MCN Small Business Development Center Manager John Blue has met and worked with a number of Muscogee (Creek) citizens since February who are interested in starting up a business or expanding.

“Get them on board as far as what they need up to the loan,”

Blue said. “And real good meetings with a lot of different Native folks and some of them already have a business; they are wanting maybe to expand their business.”

Bill Fife, MCN Secretary of the Nation, believes that small businesses are the foundation of a growing economy.

“Small business is the lifeblood of this country,” Fife said. “It has been proven if you want to build an economy then you must build small businesses.

Fife wishes to facilitate growth specifically within the MCN and keep the generated revenue within the tribal network.

“We want to capture that money and keep it circulating here,” Fife said.

The SBDC staff is working with the tribal citizens to facilitate business ideas.

“They come in, we develop a business plan around that idea,” Blue said.

The citizens will be asked to write out a business plan and financial projections and provide 10 percent equity of the total loan along with collateral.

“We’ll have training to help these businesses understand how the business cycles,” Blue said. “So they can understand and get better at their business. I think they’ll have an advantage over the businesses that start out

here that don’t have training background.”

According to Blue, the SBDC is searching for an executive director. He said applicants are being reviewed to fill the position within the week.

The SBDC has also applied to become certified with the U.S. Department of Treasury Community Development Financial Institute. The program is still able to create a loan fund without the certification but Fife believes that certification shouldn’t be a problem.

The plan for the MCN SBDC office is to terminate the partnership with the Northeastern State University Oklahoma SBDC in October.

Blue believes this is an important and unique opportunity for the MCN.

“It has been a long time coming for Creek Nation and there’s other nations out here but very few who make loans to their members,” Blue said.

Fife hopes to see the MCN SBDC advance in the next five years.

“Maybe expand our office and we’ll have a bigger staff,” Fife said. “We realize we’re small. We don’t have a big staff to do everything we need to do but we got some good people and are trying to build a foundation that we can grow on.”

## RIP celebrates new grant, honorable mention

### RIP receives funding for transitional living center

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program was selected by The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development Honoring Nations Awards Program as one of seven semi-finalists in the 2013 All-Stars award cycle.

According to their website [www.hpaied.org](http://www.hpaied.org), the Honoring Nations program identifies, celebrates and shares excellence in American Indian tribal governance.

Reintegration received the first place award from Honoring Nations in 2008. Honoring Nations invited all the programs that won an award in the 2000’s and had them compete against each other this year. RIP received an honorable mention.

MCN RIP Manager Tony Fish was pleased about with the accomplishment.

“It feels really good being recognized for the work that we all been doing,” Fish said. “Especially since society sees it as unpopular work. We see the benefit. Especially when it comes to rehabilitating the person.”

He believes RIP makes an impact.

“We feel if we can help that one person we are helping their

families and helping them being able to get back into society. When you can change the life of one you can change the life of many,” Fish said.

The program recently received the \$3.25 million Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

RIP did surveys with community members to gather input on what services the program should provide if the



program was able to obtain a planning grant. Results showed that those surveyed believed a transitional living center would be best for the community.

“It was the most popular of choices in the feedback,” Fish said.

Reintegration wants to involve other tribes to develop a regional program through the transitional living center.

“With their help we would be able to get more monies with this grant,” Fish said.

Fish is happy with the assistance he is receiving from other MCN entities.

“Our National Council allocated \$1.9 million to help with the matching part of this grant,” he said. “Also the Housing Division is looking into leveraging NAHASDA funding, which is the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act. That will also be able to help with the transitional living center.”

RIP Project Coordinator Amber Nelson assisted with CTAS grant and gave details about the transitional living center.

“It is going to be a 36-bed facility,” Nelson said. “12 of those beds will be for women and the rest will be for men. They will live on-site here.”

The transitional living center will also be able to provide substance abuse counseling, volunteer work in the community and classes to help inmates transition back into society.

“We will also be having job coaching,” Nelson said. “We want these to be nine month courses.”

Fish had some final words about his program.

“We are very excited for the future of our program and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,” Fish said. “With all that is happening with us, it is putting us on the map and they are seeing how successful we are.”

For more information on the MCN Reintegration Program, call: 918-652-2676.




















# MOVIE NIGHT!



## ATTENTION: MUSCOGEE (CREEK) VETERANS ALL BRANCHES

In Honor of Muscogee Veterans the VASO will be hosting  
“MOVIE NIGHT”  
(Friday, 18 October 2013)  
• Showtime - 1900 Hrs.  
Location - Veterans Building (MCN Complex)  
Movie - “THE BRIDGES AT TOKO-RI” (with William Holden and Grace Kelly)  
Drinks - Coke & Diet Coke (Free Of Charge) • Chow - Popcorn (Free Of Charge)  
Smoking Lamp is Lit • Price of Admission - FREE (Adults only)  
• Muscogee Veterans plus one adult guest  
Any questions call Shawn Taryole at the MCN VASO (918) 732-7745





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# SPIRIT FIRE

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Symposium & Art Exhibit

OKLAHOMA JAZZ HALL OF FAME  
111 E. FIRST STREET, TULSA OKLAHOMA  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013 - 1 PM TO 5 PM

Welcome, George Philip Tiger, Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of OK  
Past President, Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes

Opening Remarks by John D. Red Eagle, Principal Chief, Osage Nation of OK

Symposium Presenters:

- » George Thompson, Muscogee (Creek), Mekko, Oce Vpofv (Hickory Ground) Tribal Town
- » Mario Gonzalez, Esq., Oglala Lakota, Attorney at Law
- » Suzan Shown Harjo, PhD, Cheyenne & Hodulgee Muscogee, *Moderator*, President, The Morning Star Institute
- » James Riding In, Ph.D., Pawnee, Associate Professor, American Indian Studies, Arizona State University, and Editor, Wicazo Sa Review
- » John Trudell, Santee Sioux, Poet, Performer, Recording Artist
- » Richard Ray Whitman, Euchee & Pawnee, Artist, Actor, Poet

Art Exhibit Opens and Silent Auction Begins at 11:30 am - featuring Items Donated to NIMI Plus Artists Mel Cornshucker, Shan Goshorn, Clancy Gray, Kenneth Johnson, Merlin Little Thunder, America Meredith, Tim Tate Nevaquaya, Traci Rabbit, Richard Ray Whitman and More!

NCAI CANDIDATE FORUM: ALL NCAI OFFICER CANDIDATES ARE INVITED TO SPEAK CONCERNING PROTECTION OF ANCESTORS AND SACRED PLACES

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit bus rides every 15 minutes from 11:15 am to 5:30 pm roundtrip from the Southeast Corner of the Cox Business Center to the front of the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame

Sponsors: Oce Vpofv (Hickory Ground), National Indian Monumnt and Institute, The Morning Star Institute, George Tiger for NCAI President, Intertribal Sacred Land Trust, Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, Tulsa Indian Art Festival

## MNBE purchases rights for Rex's Chicken franchise



MN/Kyla McKown

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise purchased franchise rights to Rex's Chicken Sept. 6 to place locations within the major eight-counties of the MCN tribal jurisdiction.

### MNBE to add Chicken franchise to existing and future travel plazas

Kyla McKown/Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise purchased franchise rights to Rex's Chicken Sept. 6 to place locations within the major eight-counties of the MCN tribal jurisdiction.

The rights were bought for \$150,000.

“What our plans are, are to create them initially into our travel plazas,” MNBE CEO Woody Anderson said. “Right now we’re doing some strategic planning and designing for new upgrades or new travel plazas and hopefully designing travel plazas for the future and we want to be able to add the Rex’s Chicken to our operations there.”

He believes that the restaurant will be an additional draw for customers along with gas, gaming and existing restaurant franchises already located at the plazas.

“One possibility, one idea, is to even put them into casinos; if that’s an option. Because you get a lot of people and a lot of people will eat and snack there,” Anderson said.

plazas.

“We’re very excited for it,” Anderson said. “It’s a great deal for travel plazas, for the Nation because the tribe continues to go with different businesses and create other job opportunities.”

He elaborated on the strategy behind the deal.

“What you do is you go and try to enhance everything you do. You bring in more revenue strength through existing operations because you already got people coming in.”

Rex’s Chicken was started by placing locations inside gas stations in the 1950s. By the 1980s, there were about 40 restaurants across Oklahoma.

David Rutkauskas, Rex’s Chicken Franchise CEO, said he wants to bring back the fond memory people had of Rex’s. He bought the rights in 2009 and worked for seven months to re-engineer the restaurant’s recipes from the ’80s.

Starting with one Rex’s Chicken in Tulsa, Okla., Rutkauskas partnered with Curtis Branch who bought the Tulsa location and continued by purchasing the franchise rights in Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

Rutkauskas said he looks forward to working with the MCN and hopes this deal is the beginning of a long-term business relationship.

“Very gratified we have this opportunity and I think it’s going to be huge,” Rutkauskas said. “I’m hopeful for travel plazas. I’m hopeful for casinos.”

He also aims to be involved with other MCN business ventures.

“I’m hoping to help with the Riverwalk project. I live right there so I know all this. I’m hoping to help with Margaritaville and instill the casino there. Maybe we can feed some people there. We just want to be on the team.”

Branch, who is currently Rex’s Chicken franchise master, also sees an opportunity in working with MCN. He said he had been looking for ways to expand the one Rex’s location for about two and a half years before getting in touch with the Nation.

“We need to have a good core established,” Branch said. “A good base in Oklahoma to expand and build from. And so I think certainly the relationship with the MCN helps us in that regard and gives us a greater platform to grow from.”

He said MCN owns the rights to build and oversee the building of Rex’s in the jurisdiction.

“We think it’ll be a great partnership,” Branch said. “And we’re very excited to be working with them and move forward on this project.”

More importantly, Anderson said that by having the rights to Rex’s Chicken, the tribe has the ability to work with charter communities or individual Muscogee (Creek) tribal members who are looking to get into a franchise for business development.

MCN seals will be placed throughout the restaurant.

“Anything MNBE does is owned by the tribe,” Anderson said. “You’ll see the logos of the Nation in the restaurants.”

He elaborated on the uniqueness of the deal and voiced his optimism about the venture.

“It’s just another business opportunity that we’re getting involved in. It helps, in one sense, to promote the Nation and it’s another arm to help us promote our businesses and create jobs here,” Anderson said. “I don’t know that as a tribe, we’ve ever had any franchises so we saw a great opportunity because Rex’s has actually been around a long time.”

Anderson said MNBE has a Muscogee (Creek) citizen architect firm working on the design of the travel plazas.

He said in about 30 days, they will have a better idea of when the buildings will go up.

He said he has also been in touch with the owner of Burger King and talked about incorporating the restaurant, along with Rex’s into the other travel



This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming



# BLUE IS BETTER

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# MCN COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL EVENTS

## CULTURAL PRESERVATION SEEKING SHELL CARVING CLASS PARTICIPANTS

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Cultural Preservation is seeking citizens interested in participating in shell carving classes.

Classes will be three to four hours Monday - Thursday. The exact dates will be announced depending on citizens' interest.

Supplies and materials will be furnished and class size will be limited. To sign up, please call Johnnie at: 918-732-7733.

## OIC FALL FESTIVAL SET FOR OCT. 4-5

OKEMAH, Okla. — Okemah Indian Community has scheduled the seventh annual Fall Harvest Festival Oct. 4-5.

The event will feature a traditional dance and feast, parade, rodeo, tournaments and other events.

For more information contact: Shannon Cooper at: 918-623-9225 or 918-623-7866.

## YEAGER MISSION INDIAN UMC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SET FOR OCT. 4-5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Yeager Mission Indian United Methodist Church will celebrate their 50 year anniversary with gospel singing Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. and a commemorative service Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., which will conclude with activities in the afternoon.

If you are a past member or pastor or had a relative that was a past member, we invite you to come and share memories.

## DWIGHT MISSION ALUMNI REUNION SET FOR OCT. 5

MARBLE CITY, Okla. — A reunion for the alumni of Dwight Mission is set for Oct. 5 at the mission dining room.

Registration will be from 9 - 10 a.m. and the program begins at 10 a.m.

Bring your family, school picture and friends. For more information, contact Levada Smith-Wildcat at: 918-773-3096.

## INDIAN TACO CHAMPIONSHIP SET FOR OCT. 5

PAWHUSKA, Okla. — The 2013 National Indian Taco Championships has been set for Oct. 5 in downtown Pawhuska. Registration is due Aug. 31 for \$25 or Sept. 30 for \$50.

For more information or to enter contact the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce at: 918-287-1208 or email them at: Pawhuskachamber@sbcglobal.net.

A Dance contest will also be held. Preliminaries start at 11 a.m. and finals will be announced some time before 4 p.m. No registration fee is required.

## INDIAN TACO SALE SET FOR OCT. 5

TULSA, Okla. — An Indian Taco Sale is set for Oct. 5 at Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church in Tulsa from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tacos will be \$7 with iced tea included.

## FOOD SALE SET FOR OCT. 5

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — The Holdenville Indian Community is holding a benefit food sale for Edwin (Bobby) Larney from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For more information call: Jencie Jimboy at: 405-712-2391 or Angie Wunnally at: 405-476-8889.

## CASA TRAINING CLASS-ES SET FOR OCT. 7

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Okmulgee County/Muscogee (Creek) Nation Court Appointed Advocates will begin a fall training class Oct. 7.

CASA is in need of volunteers to share their time to assist children, who through no fault of their own, have landed in the court system due to neglect or abuse.

CASA advocates must submit to a background check and 30 hours of training before being sworn in. After that time, advocates may choose, which cases they would like to work.

The CASA staff works with volunteers to assist them with their case.

For more information, contact CASA Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Hancock at: 918-756-2549 or by email at: casaokm@gmail.com.

## SYMPOSIUM ON MUSKOGEOAN HISTORY SET FOR OCT. 10-11

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A symposium on Muskogean history and culture is set for Oct. 10-11 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex.

Everyone is invited to attend this event hosted by the MCN Department of Cultural Preservation.

## SCIC TO HOST FLU SHOT PROVISION FOR MCN ELDERS OCT. 17

SAPULPA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Sapulpa Clinic is set to provide free flu vaccinations Oct. 17 from 12-2 p.m. at the Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center, 1020 N. Brown, Sapulpa, OK.

MCN Citizenship Cards are required. For more information contact Loretta Freeman at: 918-227-9627.

## LARNEY/SCOTT FAMILY REUNION SET FOR OCT. 19

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A Larney/Scott Family Reunion is set for Oct. 19 at the Holdenville Indian Community Center, 221 E. Poplar St. Holdenville, OK.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. and everyone should bring a covered dish and door prize. For more information call Jencie Jimboy at: 405-712-2391 or Angie Nunnully at: 405-476-8889.

## MIDDLE CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL SET FOR OCT. 25

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Middle Creek #2 Church has scheduled an annual Fall Festival Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. The event will feature a hayride, carnival games, kickball and more.

The event is free to the public and all are welcome.

For more information contact Tia Stewart at: 405-600-8764 or Jolene at: 405-683-1824. The church is located three miles west of Holdenville off of old Oklahoma State Highway 270.

## TARYOLE FAMILY REUNION SET FOR NOV. 2

NUYAKA, Okla. — A family reunion for the descendants of Prince Taryole is set for Nov. 2 at the home of Boy Gibson starting at 12 p.m.

Please bring at pot-luck dish and/or beverage and a bingo prize.

For more information please contact Brandi Taryole at: 918-946-6548.

## LEWIS-MARSHALL RE-UNION SET FOR NOV. 30

OKLAHOMA CITY — A Lewis and Mandy Marshall family reunion is set for Nov. 30. More information will be given monthly until finalized.

Family members are encouraged to submit their favorite cooking recipes so cookbooks can be made before the reunion.

For information contact Marsha at: 405-733-3578, regarding recipes contact Lydia Fish at: 405-629-5228.

## Kerr Center to hold courses on farming, ranching

MFSI/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — If you've been farming or raising livestock for less than ten years, the Kerr Center has got a great deal for you; a free course in sustainable farming or ranching.

The third year of the Oklahoma Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program is set to begin in February. The program's purpose is to provide beginning farmers and ranchers with the training they need to be successful.

Space is limited. To be considered, you must submit an application by Nov. 15. This can be done online at: [www.kerrcenter.com/beginning-farmer/index.html](http://www.kerrcenter.com/beginning-farmer/index.html) or by printing out the application and mailing it to Kerr Center, P.O. Box 588, Poteau, OK 74953.

There is no charge for tuition or course materials and lunch is also included.

Participants choose to follow either a livestock or horticulture curriculum track.

Participants also choose where to attend: either at the Kerr Center's Farm and Ranch near Poteau or at the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative office in Okmulgee.

The first class is in February and all trainees must attend this orientation and planning class either at Poteau or Okmulgee.

The classes will be a mix of classroom instruction and time out in the field with a focus on real-life problem-solving and hands-on skills.

For more information please call the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative Office at: 918-756-5915. You may also email June Marshall at: [jmarshall@mvskeokefood.org](mailto:jmarshall@mvskeokefood.org) or Lynn Duke at: [lduke@mvskeokefood.org](mailto:lduke@mvskeokefood.org).

## 2013 California Muscogee (Creek) Association gathering set for Oct. 5

Media Release

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The 2013 annual Gathering of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association is set for Oct. 5 from 12 - 5 p.m. at the Native American United Methodist Church at 800 S. Lemon St., Anaheim, CA 92805.

Also, all Muscogee (Creek) citizens are encouraged to update their citizenship cards to the new format through the MCN Citizenship Department. For more information about the new card contact Citizenship at: 1-800-482-1979.

This is a pot-luck event, so please bring plenty of food, desserts and drinks to share.

To volunteer or for more information contact Eli Grayson at: 760-534-1632.

## Blues jam session/workshop hosted by GIC

Media Release

GLENPOOL, Okla. — The Glenpool Indian Community is hosting a blues jam session and workshop every Tuesday through the end of November.

The event is held by Joy Harjo along with singer, bassist and guitarist Selby Minner. The sessions are held at the GIC Community Center next to the Smoke Shop off of U.S. Highway 75. All ages and skill levels are welcome. The sessions are from 7-9 p.m. with the beginner session beginning at 7 p.m. and the intermediate at 8 p.m.

Bring your guitar, bass or drums or just come and sing some blues! This is not really for an audience but for music students who want to have fun, stretch out, meet each other and help their music grow.

Minner has been inducted into the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame is the recipient of the Keeping the Blues Alive Award and a founder of the Rentiesville Dusk Till Dawn Blues Festival.

She and her late husband D.C. have been the hub of the Rentiesville Blues scene for over 20 years. She now fronts her band, Blues on the Move with Dan 'Oklahoma Slim' Ortiz on lead. Bringing fresh inspiration, he is a fantastic guitarist in the Hendrix vein.

Minner has performed on stage with: Albert Collins, Drink Small, Hubert Sumlin, Lowell Fulson, Big Bad Smitty, Larry Davis, Smokey Wilson, Little Johnny Taylor, Tony Mathews, Harry and Debbie Blackwell, Lucinda Williams and countless others. She has worked tirelessly to develop the community and spread the good word about Oklahoma Blues.

After a few years fronting the band on guitar, she is now back on the bass as she was for 28 years in the D.C. Minner Band. She is funkier than ever, carrying on D.C.'s music with a lot of originals, deep rooted in the good time Texas-Oklahoma Hotbox style. OK Slim ads the fire!

## 2013 MCN Department of Health Mobile Health Flu Clinic Schedule



MCN DOH/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health will be providing flu immunizations to Native American citizens within the MCN boundaries beginning in October. DOH has set the following dates and locations for immunizations:

### October

Oct. 8 - MCN Tribal Complex 9-11 a.m.

One Fire Casino Okmulgee 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Oct. 9 - Lacky Hall 9-11 a.m.

MCN Housing 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Oct. 10 - Okmulgee Indian Health Center 9-11 a.m.

Okmulgee Indian Community 9-11 a.m.

Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition 12-2 p.m.

Oct. 11 - MCN Bristow Casino 9-11 a.m.

Bristow Indian Community 12-2 p.m.

Oct. 14 - Twin Hills Elderly Nutrition 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Oct. 15 - Koweta Indian Health Center 9-11 a.m.

Koweta Community Center 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

MCN Casino Muscogee 2-4 p.m.

Oct. 16 - NCAI Tulsa Race Day 9-11 a.m.

Sapulpa Clinic 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Oct. 17 - Sapulpa Indian Community 12-2 p.m.

Oct. 21 - River Spirit Casino 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. 1:30-4 p.m.

Oct. 22 - Checotah Casino 9-11 a.m.

Eufaula Clinic/Casino/Community 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Oct. 23 - Cromwell Indian Community 9-11 a.m.

Oct. 24 - Dustin Indian Community 9-11 a.m.

Oct. 28 - Duck Creek Indian Community 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Duck Creek Casino 1-3 p.m.

Oct. 29 - MCN Okemah Casino 9-11 a.m.

Creek Nation Community Hospital 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Oct. 30 - Dewar Elderly Nutrition Center 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

### November

Nov. 5 - Wetumka Indian Community 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Nov. 6 - Weleetka Indian Community 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Nov. 12 - MCN Holdenville Casino 10 a.m.-12 p.m.



## Muscogee (Creek) citizen to be featured at film festival



Photo Submission  
A screen shot from the movie 'Tonto Plays Himself' by Muscogee (Creek) film maker Jacob Floyd. Pictured are Jacob Floyd and his parents Carol and James Floyd.

### Documentary explores Native American roles in film

Jessica McBride/Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — “Movies are my life. They’re my hobby, my academic study and sometimes; they’re my job,” Muscogee (Creek) filmmaker Jacob Floyd said in his documentary, ‘Tonto Plays Himself.’

‘Tonto Plays Himself’ dives into Floyd’s personal apprehension of Native Americans in the film industry and examines the misrepresentations in the globally acclaimed western genre.

In his thesis film, Floyd begins to explore the careers of Native Americans in Hollywood during the 1930s-50s and the obstacles those actors faced in their careers.

“It started out basically as me trying to make sense of research into some stories I had heard about Native American actors,” Floyd said. “But then as I started to find things out it sort of became kind of more about myself and how I sort of had to come to terms with Native American representation especially in westerns.”

As his research evolves, Floyd develops a relationship with Creek actor, Victor Daniels. Floyd delves into Daniels’ personal background beginning in Muskogee, Okla., and follows his career to Hollywood.

During his inquiry, Floyd is astonished to learn that they are related. However, when Floyd begins to analyze Daniels’ work he becomes troubled with the image that the actor portrays.

“I knew these were only movies and that for Victor these were only jobs; but could he have ever known what his movies would do to me?” Floyd says in the film.

Floyd realizes through historical analysis and by detecting subtle clues in Daniels’ films, that his initial conclusion was wrong and that he did make an effort to combat the stereotypical portrayal of the Native Americans.

“It sort of was trying to make sense of things and in a way it was almost like, not like therapy, but working out issues that I couldn’t work out academically,” said Floyd.

Floyd says in his film that he still does not like westerns, but has a new appreciation for the Native entrepreneurs who blazed the trail for Native Americans today.

The film is one of three chosen as part of New York University’s Culture and Media Program in the Emerging Visual Anthropologists Showcase that will be featured at the Margaret Mead Film Festival Oct. 19 in New York.

The Margaret Mead Film Festival is an annual film festival that features international ethnographic and anthropological pieces. ‘Tonto Plays Himself’ was also featured at the Native

American Film and Video Festival in Washington, D.C., the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, the Viscult Documentary Film Festival in Joensuu, Finland and the Red Fork Native Film Festival in Tulsa, Okla.

According to Floyd, ‘Tonto Plays Himself’ shows a history of images in the film industry, which made it ideal to be chosen for an ethnographic film festival.

Floyd graduated from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah with a bachelor’s degree in media arts studies and has a master’s degree in cinema studies from NYU. He is currently working on his doctorate in English emphasizing screen studies from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla.

In the future, Floyd wants to teach film and media courses. He says it is important for him to be able to continue making films such as documentaries or even non-fiction that communicates an idea in the story.

“I think there always has to be a creative aspect,” Floyd said.

He intended for the film to communicate to the audience that Native American actors have always been active agents in the industry. Floyd says that the progress made in film and media has made people more aware of the history of misrepresentation.

According to Floyd, Native Americans are representing themselves better and are even creating films themselves. Despite this progress, he believes more work needs to be done.

His biggest pet peeve is that Native Americans are frequently pictured in a historical time period. Floyd would like to see more films about Native Americans set in a contemporary period.

Floyd says that this experience has been unique for him in that he never meant for the film to take a narcissistic direction.

“I guess part of what’s been really weird about this experience is that I don’t like things to be really about me, so it’s really funny that this movie that I sort of made myself as the center,” said Floyd.

His father, James Floyd, says that his son is a skilled storyteller who is willing to take risks. He says that he is quiet and reserved but is able to make bold strides to send a significant message.

“We’re very pleased. This has been a passion of his since before he started school,” James Floyd said. “We’re pleased that other people acknowledge the significance of this film.”

Floyd is a member of the Bear Clan and Tallahassee Tribal Town. Floyd’s parents are James and Carol Floyd.

To view ‘Tonto Plays Himself’ you can view the film at: <http://www.imdb.com/video/wab/vi3683621657>.

## Officials discuss OMH transition



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
The 60 day transition period for the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to be placed under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is still underway. The transfer agreement was signed Aug. 15 by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and OMH Hospital Board President Nevyle Cable.

### Smith hopes to make facility on par with Tulsa hospitals

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 60 day transition for the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to be placed under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is still underway.

Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith, Secretary of Health for MCN Department of Health, said the tribe had considered acquiring the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital in the past, but moved forward with the deal when the demand for healthcare increased.

“The rural facilities are having trouble surviving. And so I think the situation they were in, they reached out to the MCN and that’s what led to us acquiring the system. It’s something we’ve always been interested in and after we started looking into it and at the community,” Smith said.

According to Smith, Okmulgee is considered the central hub of the eight major county tribal jurisdiction and services should improve through the provision of care at this centralized location.

Smith said signing over the OMH rights to MCN was an ideal transaction.

“To gain a Level 3 hospital and already have that foundation of services in place; assume the transaction and the Medicare numbers come with it. Makes it easier to gain a hospital of that level,” Smith said.

He said the tribe plans to build a large-scale facility in the future. Along with the services currently in place, the

Nation plans to ease the transportation concerns of citizens in the area by providing MRI and other specialty services at the facility.

Smith said reorganization is a big part of doing a full change of ownership. The MCN will be working to establish a compact with Indian Health Services to be eligible for supplemental IHS funding.

“Still able to operate for the community, but also open it up to where we can receive some additional funding if allowed,” Smith said. “...We’ll work with Indian Health Services to get under a funding agreement so we can take care of everyone.”

He shared his dreams and expectations for the MCN healthcare system.

“We feel as MCN we can operate a large-scale health system,” Smith said. “Acquiring OMH and George Nigh has put us as a tribal entity on a different level than most of the tribes because we now have to operate into the private sector. Our main goal and expectations is to have a facility comparative to Hillcrest South and Saint Francis South.”

Smith isn’t the only one looking forward to the opportunities and services the MCN can offer. Nevyle Cable, President of the OMH Board of Directors, said he is excited about the partnership and recent acquisitions by the Nation.

“It serves as the nucleus as what the Nation is doing with their healthcare,” Cable said. “And I’m excited about the prospects of long-term healthcare for Okmulgee. It really is a win-win for both Creek Na-

tion and the community of Okmulgee and the surrounding area.”

According to Cable, OMH began struggling financially due to a lack of tax-based support from the community. This struggle combined with the health-care goals of the MCN resulted in a discussion between the facility and MCN Principal Chief George Tiger about a possible deal between the two entities.

“The plans the Nation had for the healthcare really kind of addressed our needs to make sure we have a community care here in town,” Cable said.

Cable and Tiger signed the transfer of ownership for OMH to the MCN Aug. 15.

The development of cardiology and oncology services at the clinic has also been discussed. The plan within the next few years is to rebuild a larger facility and relocate and develop the property within Okmulgee.

Smith hopes that this new opportunity for the Nation creates opportunities for others as well.

“More opportunities and creates more jobs for us,” Smith said. “That’s how the system and infrastructure has been rebuilt. It has been built for the expansion of these services.”

He added that the utilization of technology has helped the MCN improve the Nation’s level of service in many areas.

“Where we’re at technology-wise, our HR is completely electronic, electronic health records. When you’re electronic you’re able to take on other services,” Smith said.

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## MCN Higher Education Administration assists Muscogee (Creek) students



MNN/Jessica McBride  
Employees of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Administration seated left to right: Ashley Bruner, Office Clerk; Jerrie On-The-Hill, Assistant Scholarship Officer; Anjanette Coker, Office Clerk  
Standing left to right: Emmanuel Bezzell, Manager/Scholarship Officer; Kellie Tiger, Office Clerk; Christine Durden, Secretary; Serena Drinnon, Office Clerk; Jessica Lowe, Office Clerk

### Changes to benefit students

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Administration provides citizens with a chance to further their education through scholarship and grant opportunities.

This financial aid can be used to pursue a technical or academic degree of any level.

Emmanuel Bezzell, MCN Higher Education Administration Manager and Scholarship Officer, believes that citizens can benefit from tribal resources to obtain an education.

“I think the ultimate goal is to create self-independency through education,” Bezzell said.

Recently, the MCN National Council approved NCA 13-190, which changed the funding for two grants provided by Higher Education. Funds are now awarded based upon the number of hours taken instead of a set amount for full and part-time students. The department offers a total of four types of scholarships and grants to eligible Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

The administration offers the Tribal Funds Grant, which provides \$125 per credit hour for undergraduate students and the Post Graduate Program, which provides \$250 per credit hour for postgraduate students. Funds for both are provided by the MCN.

Available assistance also includes the MCN funded Tribal Incentive Grant, which offers a set amount of \$750 for full-time students and \$300 for part-time students and the Creek Nation Scholarship of Oklahoma; a BIA funded grant offered through the MCN, which provides student funding based on need.

Although MCN offers financial aid to citizens, Bezzell believes that students should also apply for aid outside the tribe.

“It’s meant to supplement whatever they may receive from federal financial aid or whatever scholarship money they may have,” Bezzell said.

The MCN Department of Education and Training will be holding an Education and Career Expo Nov. 7 at the Beggs High School Dome in Beggs, Okla., which will be available to anyone.

The morning session from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., will be geared towards high school age students who are looking for opportunities to go to college, further their education or learn about different careers. The afternoon session from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m., will be geared towards adults looking to go back to school or seeking a career.

“This is the first time we’ve actually done something like this,” Bezzell said. “We’re expecting up

to 500 students from around the area to be attending.”

Bezzell hopes that they can host the event at the MCN Multipurpose Center next year to accommodate more people.

During their presentations, Higher Education informs prospective and current students about educational opportunities including schools, careers and financial aid.

Bezzell feels that student loans are important and that many times students do not consider interest rates and how big their payments will be after college.

When Higher Education attends events, they try to provide as much information as possible to benefit students looking to further their education.

“It’ll be Higher Ed, College of the Muscogee Nation and then Employment and Training to try to get all of that information to those students at that time,” Bezzell said.

One complaint about the program is that students do not receive their financial assistance until after the school semester has already begun.

“If you’re aware of our fiscal year, it doesn’t work good for students because you know most students start in August. We don’t get money till October; so we’re working on ways to try and improve that,” said Bezzell.

Higher Education has improved the application process by providing one instead of multiple applications for all the available grants.

In the future, Bezzell says that the department is looking to pursue additional opportunities for citizens. Higher Education is considering offering prepaid reloadable cards for the scholarship recipients. Higher Education is also looking to assist MCN Employment and Training to develop a GED training program and administer assessment tests to guide students in pursuing a career.

The Higher Education department provides services to any citizen seeking to further their education regardless of age, where they live or the certificate or degree they wish to pursue.

“For Higher Ed, as long as you’re a Creek citizen, it doesn’t matter where you’re going to school at,” Bezzell said. “It is open to all citizens. They should not be discouraged from applying because they think that they may not be eligible.”

Opportunities, upcoming events and other information are posted on the Higher Education Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MCNHigherEd](http://www.facebook.com/MCNHigherEd).

For more information about the scholarships or grants, call the Higher Education Administration at 918-732-7689 or visit the website at: [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/HigherEducation/HighEd.html](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/HigherEducation/HighEd.html).

## JOM program offers more than school supplies

### Students benefit from tutoring, academic incentives

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Johnson-O’Malley program assists Native American students within the tribal jurisdiction both academically and culturally.

The program was created through the Johnson O’Malley Act, a U.S. congressional law passed in 1934 to help cover educational expenses for Native American students.

“I think most people kind of think of Johnson-O’Malley as just school supplies,” said Regina Keith, JOM Program Manager. “But that’s not all that Johnson-O’Malley is about. We’re about helping our students, the students that we serve be successful. Be successful not just with their education but in life.”

The federal government provides funding to the tribe for distribution to local schools based upon student count. However, in 1995 the federal government froze funds based upon that years’ count. The freeze based on this number remains in place to date.

The MCN passed a resolution in 1995 to supplement any gap in funding caused by the federal freeze.

A count of students is done every October and 16,098 students received benefits from the JOM program for the 2013 school year.

Along with the funding freeze, there is also a freeze on applications from schools. No new public school system can apply for JOM funds. Out of the 68 schools within the tribal boundaries, a total of 46 schools have JOM programs this year.

Unlike Title VII, JOM funds can also be used for cultural education.

“Now Johnson-O’Malley is the main one that the schools are using to keep the culture alive and bring presenters in

and bring people in to teach flute making or stickball, things like that,” said Keith.

Keith says the program helps bring students to a different level.

“It makes a big difference,” Keith said. “I think it helps to bring those students that, you know, wouldn’t be able to participate at a level as the other non-Indian students and having those certain needs met that they couldn’t get met otherwise.”

Unlike similar programs, with JOM, the parents have the authority to determine what needs are met and how their schools use the funding. Title VII, another program that provides federal funding for Native American education needs, allows for parental involvement but only through an advisory committee.

Keith says that this opportunity for parental involvement has not been fully utilized. Parents of Native American children are encouraged to participate on the parent committee so that they can help identify the needs of the children at the school. Each school has their own committee.

Along with their Indian education coordinators, the committee requests funds for programs based upon a needs assessment. Programs range from tutoring to ACT/SAT fees.

Unlike Title VII, JOM funds can also be used for cultural education.

“Now Johnson-O’Malley is the main one that the schools are using to keep the culture alive and bring presenters in and bring people in to teach flute making or stickball, things like that. That’s another advantage that we have with JOM, that we can use the funding for that,” said Keith.

The JOM program holds in-services for Indian education coordinators, superintendents, parents and others in the education community. There are three meetings held quarterly. The in-services provide information about the JOM program and other MCN programs that students and educators can benefit from.

“We’re planning what we’re

calling a round table discussion,” said Keith. “So that they can sit around and network and share what has been successful in their programs and what’s been challenging, and maybe get ideas from one another.”

The MCN also provides funding for the annual MCN Challenge Bowl, which is an academic competition administered by JOM. The fourteenth annual MCN Challenge Bowl will be held Feb. 4, Feb. 11 and Feb. 18 at First Baptist Church in Beggs, Okla.

Competitors are divided into elementary, middle school and high school divisions. Each team has five players with one of those players being an alternate. Two teams compete against each other answering questions regarding Mvskoke history, language, government and current events. Any student is eligible to compete on a team.

Keith says that students benefit from both the knowledge they acquire and the experience of the competition.

“We try to not only teach them about our history and culture and about our Muscogee (Creek) people, we try to teach them how to compete and be team players, and respect,” Keith said.

The Belvin Hill Memorial Incentive is a \$500 incentive awarded to a male and a female participant of the Challenge Bowl. Participants must be high school seniors to apply. Applications will be available for the award Sept. 6. The deadline to apply is Nov. 8. The recipients will be announced during the Challenge Bowl competition Feb. 4, 2014.

The MCN also funds additional awards through the JOM program. A \$500 academic incentive is offered to 16 Creek high school seniors that attend one of the 46 school districts of the MCN. Applications for the award will be mailed out Jan. 20, 2014 and applications will be available online and sent to schools. The deadline to apply is March 7, 2014. For more information about JOM call: 918-732-7840.

## Learning our language, regaining our culture

### Mvskoke language classes continue with new teacher

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The biggest thing about the Sept. 3 class came at the end.

Our Mvhayv—teacher, Daria Hicks, told us she is leaving.

She’ll be going to the Okemah hospital to work there. Hicks didn’t speak much about the why and I’m not even going to speculate. I’d just like to say that Hicks made our learning efforts very comfortable and effective. She reached her students with a warm personality that kept our attention, intermixing the language skills with stories about Creek life and people that gave us examples to work with and remember.

For example, she used the making of corn soup as a way to share culture, naming ingredients in Mvskoke, and talking about different methods of preparing the dish used by different communities around Creek country.

Review and repetition was the class exercise.

We worked on the two and three letter combination, learn-

ing some examples of how they are combined to form simple words and even phrases. A review of numbers led to questions about how to say our birthdays. Mine is Otowoskuce pale-hokkolen hvmkuntvlaken. Creek speakers can figure that one out. However, I am not giving out the year. Not that it’s too hard, just private. Ay.

Hicks went over upcoming lessons. They will include a building of vocabulary, learning things like rooms, household item, clothes and food, the everyday sorts of things that will prove useful.

I’m looking forward to continuing the class. My work schedule does interfere, though. I missed the Thursday, Sept. 5 class due to a request to set up the public address system at the Alfred Berryhill funeral.

I missed finding out who is the new teacher.

Sept. 10 is my first class under the new instructor. He is a former College of the Muscogee Nation language student and filled in for Daria Hicks in the first session last year. Nick Hill is our new instructor and I think is making the change for our class comfortable.

His style is different and I think the class will adjust fairly easily. He does have a louder voice than

Hicks so hearing him will be a bit easier. His children’s classes call him, “Mister Nick.”

His philosophy is simple and comprehensive and a challenge: “You have to take everything you get and compile it into your own folder.” This will be my challenge: Compile everything I got from the last beginner class series and compile it into something like a folder. That’ll be a chore since a lot of that stuff was fast scribbling. I’ll have to decipher the scribbles and organize them.

His curriculum is pretty much the standard one. Review of the alphabet and basic syllables. He gives us a idea of how they get pronounced and affected by the spelling. For instance, “H” gets more emphasis, ‘an extra punch’ when pronounced within the words.

He is using a Powerpoint presentation that highlights each section as it is being pronounced, illustrating the parts. These visuals give us the chance to see how the parts interact in their sequences in words.

Hill emphasizes a daily use of the lessons to keep them fresh, to ingrain them into our memories, make us more aware of the Mvskoke language and how it fits into our daily communications.



## Wilson community set to open new fitness center



Braden Williams (left) doing some light sparring with the founder of Stronghold Ground and Pound gym, Shawn Williams.

### Community to bring healthy lifestyle to citizens

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Wilson Creek Indian Community Center has been everything from a smoke shop to a venue for gatherings such as birthday parties and reunions. Now the community can add another title to their building.

The WCIC is opening a Mixed Martial Arts fitness and recreational center.

“We want to be able to get a lot of activities out here for the kids here and in the areas like Okmulgee and Henryetta and other surrounding areas,” community member Shawn Williams said.

The new gym will be called the Stronghold Ground and Pound. Williams wants to offer a variety of disciplines taught by different instructors including: MMA, boxing, kickboxing and self-defense.

Williams wants the gym to provide a positive environment for everyone and be a place where children and adults can workout.

One of the biggest concerns that Williams wants to address with the center is accessibility for local citizens. He feels

that the only fitness programs available for children are in bigger cities like Tulsa and Muskogee, Okla., and Oklahoma City. People have a hard time covering the cost of commuting.

“When we were younger we did not have places to go for activities such as MMA and boxing,” Williams said. “Places that we have to go to now, you have to travel long distances for that. That is very tough nowadays because of how much we pay for fuel. I would like to get a recreational center around here for the kids that have no place to go.”

Williams is inviting the owners of other gyms in the Tulsa area to hold classes and seminars at the recreational center, including Thunderkick Fitness.

“All the ones that I have been talking too are Creek and want to help out,” Williams said.

Thunderkick owner Thomas Longacre is excited about the center’s potential impact.

“It is going to be a great outreach for the community and will be able to help out the Native youth and adults too,” Longacre said. “It is going to be a positive place to workout or train and if some of these kids want to continue that in amateur fighting they will

have a place to start.”

Longacre echoed Williams’ comment regarding gym accessibility. “Especially when you are in a rural community and the gym you want to go to is 45 minutes to an hour away,” he said. “So with Shawn bringing this gym to the community it will be able to help enrich the youth and give them somewhere to be proud of and to have activities and to get a great workout. They will have someplace to go besides roaming the streets and trouble finding them.”

Williams feels this is just a starting point for the recreational center.

“I do not want this place to be just a gym,” Williams said. “I want the place to be able to offer tutoring services and other activities for not only kids but for adults as well. We want this place to help with healthy lifestyle living.”

Currently, the community has an open mat for anyone who wants to workout and Williams is in the process of obtaining punching bags for the facility. A grand opening date for the Stronghold Ground and Pound has yet to be determined.

For more information contact Shawn Williams at: 918-319-0009.

## Okmulgee Farmer’s Market offers fresh local produce



Robyn Franklin, President of the Okmulgee Farmer's Market talks to customers about produce from her garden

### Market benefits growers, vendors and customers

Darren DeLaune/Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Since May of this year, local farmers from around Okmulgee have been bringing their produce to the Muskogee (Creek) Council House lawn on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6th and Morton Street to sell their produce to consumers who are looking to eat healthy with fresh fruit and vegetables.

President Robyn Franklin of the Okmulgee Farmer’s Market, and Market Manager spoke about what it has to offer.

“If you want to get best fruits and vegetables that are locally grown then you need to come to our Farmer’s Market,” Frank-

lin said. “This market gives me an outing to see what the customers likes and I get requests to grow lettuce and another challenge I get is how to keep my garden growing in 100 degree weather,” Fox says.

The success of the market can be seen in the growth of the customer base.

“We always get a great turnout week to week since May,” said Fox. “Every week is always a positive. We get new customers to go along with our repeat customers.”

The positive turnout over the summer months has assured everyone that there will be a Farmer’s Market for next year.

“This season has been really good,” Franklin said. “Even with the hot weather that we had everyone still came out to

**“NOT ONLY DOES THIS GIVE US AN AVENUE TO SELL OUR PRODUCT BUT IT ALSO HELPS THE CONSUMER TO KNOW WHERE TO GET SOME OF THE PRODUCTS INSTEAD OF GOING TO THE SUPERMARKET.”**

**- PRESIDENT OF THE OKMULGEE FARMER'S MARKET ROBYN FRANKLIN**

## Creek boxer falls short in second bout



Muscogee (Creek) boxer Darren DeLaune lost the second bout of his professional career to Tim Brownson

### DeLaune loses in unanimous decision

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

CONCHO, Okla. — For Muskogee (Creek) boxer Darren DeLaune, the second bout of his professional boxing career would not end on a positive note as he lost by unanimous decision to Tim Brownson.

“Going into this fight, I was very nervous, which is like every fight previous,” DeLaune said.

His first fight was against Jimmy Lane in June 2012. DeLaune won that contest by a technical knockout in the fourth round.

Although DeLaune had trained extensively for this fight under the tutelage of

trainer and former boxer BJ Waggoner, he looks back at the fight with a unique perspective.

“I felt gassed out very quickly, which I had no one to blame but myself. BJ had an awesome game plan. Very simple, use my jab. I would have won if I had listened to him. I felt my arms getting very heavy, like they would not even move.”

DeLaune points to a decision by referee Gary Ritter, which concluded in a point deduction tilting the score in Bronson’s favor.

“I had a point taken away for holding behind the head. Rules are there for a reason. I thought when I held him I had his arms. He did bend down a lot and my arms were over his head. I think the ref saw it like

that,” DeLaune said.

DeLaune feels that without this point deduction, he would have been victorious. Waggoner agreed with this belief.

“He (DeLaune) should get a rematch. He went in with a game plan. If they fought 10 times, he should win nine times,” said Waggoner.

The Creek boxer looks for a rematch against Bronson and will make adjustments to his technique if this occurs.

“I am hoping to get a rematch. I need to avenge this loss. I waited for him (Bronson) for a year to get a fight with him. He can give me a rematch. Even though I did poorly, I almost beat him. It will be a do or die match for me,” said DeLaune.

lin said. “Everything here is healthy and we also have fresh honey that we get from our own beehives.”

Franklin believes the market benefits the customers and vendors alike.

“This is good for all of us,” Franklin said. “Not only does this give us an avenue to sell our product but it also helps the consumer to know where to get some of the products instead of going to the supermarket. It gives the customer the opportunity to try out what is growing from our gardens here locally.”

Joanne Fox, who has been selling her produce here for over three years echoed this belief.

“The customers that come here are looking for fresh homegrown produce that are made locally,” Fox said. “These customers talk about being tired of how the produce in the supermarkets are in there for a long time and they are not fresh and they will not be replaced for awhile. They grew up around it so they will know when it is fresh products from a garden or from a supermarket.”

The market also give Fox the opportunity as a grower to see what her customer base is looking for.

our market. The same customers do keep coming in and we keep getting new customers every week. We are growing and keep getting bigger and bigger. We are going to be here for next season.”

The workers in the Farmer’s Market want to let everyone know that they do except Supplemental Nutrition Acceptance Program cards.

“We can help people who have SNAP cards and people that are on WIC (Women’s, Infants and Children assistance) also,” Fox said.

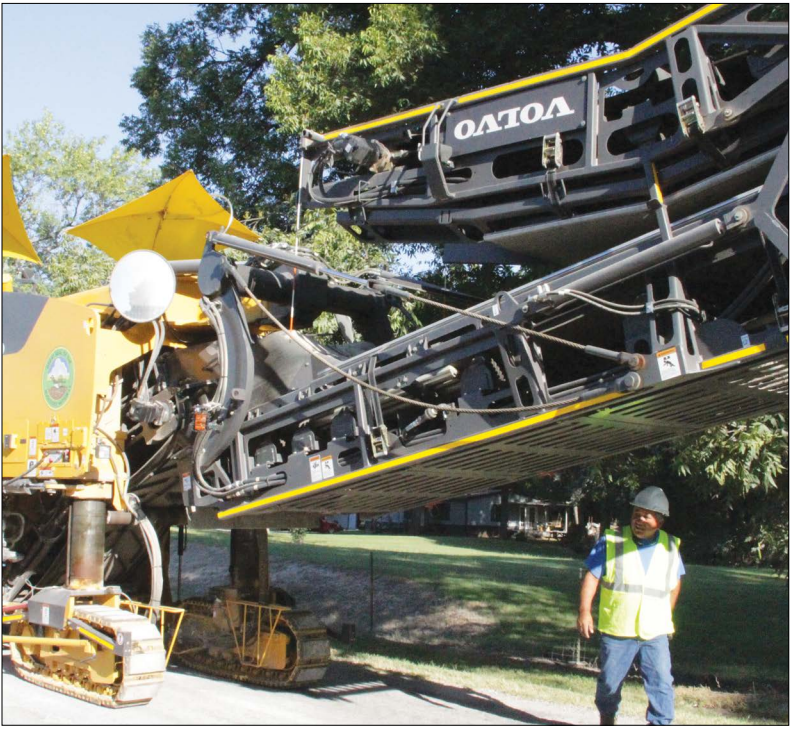
Franklin wants to let any new vendors know on what they need to do if they want to have a booth for next season.

If anyone would like to come out and set up a booth for next season will need to go to the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative office which is right next to KOKL here in Okmulgee,” Franklin said. “They will need to fill out an application and it cost \$50 a season to set up a booth. All the produce needs to be Oklahoma grown. It cannot come from out of state.”

For more information on the Okmulgee’s Farmer’s Market, call: 918-650-5521. The last Farmer’s Market will be held Oct 25.



MCN Tribal Roads unveils new machine



MNN/Gerald Wofford  
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Roads Department recently purchased a Volvo milling machine.

Milling machine to assist with road improvements

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Roads Department purchased a Volvo milling machine. The machine will help the program smooth roads for less hazardous driving within the tribal jurisdiction.

Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge is excited about the addition.

“This milling machine will allow us to service our citizens in so many ways,” said LaSarge.

The \$480,000 equipment breaks up worn out and deteriorating asphalt and helps in widening roads.

LaSarge has already seen co-operation between county commissioners and the tribe on road projects that service tribal and

non-tribal citizens alike.

Okmulgee County Commissioner Robert Hardridge believes these improvements are an example of the tribal and local government entities working together.

“Its good to be able to work with the tribe in this manner and see how our roads are being improved,” Hardridge said.

LaSarge envisions the machine being contracted to surrounding counties and companies.

“We just put the word out there, cause a lot of counties don’t have a milling machine.”

LaSarge stated that money accumulated from these projects is set aside for equipment purchases and future projects.

“When we do a special project, we even charge ourselves for the rental and take that money and put into a equipment pool. That way I don’t have to go to the tribe and ask them for that money,” LaSarge said.

Emvpunyv: 'One who tells a story'

"I think that we have put some information out there that is educated the body at the legislature and even the governor's office." — Oklahoma State Rep. Dan Kirby

State legislators and tribes, new food outlet and Indian Miss America

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Native American members of the Oklahoma State House of Representatives met with tribal representatives to talk about tribal concerns and priorities recently.

The occasion was the first annual convention of the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas—UINOKT. The forum provided an opportunity for the Native representatives to get together with some Native members of the Oklahoma Legislative.

That’s good because in past years, the relationship between the Oklahoma state legislature and tribal governments has not been cordial, often even adversarial.

Rep. Dan Kirby of District 75 is chair of the Native caucus. He represents east Tulsa and is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. He described the current situation as improving.

“I think that it’s getting better. In the last four years that I’ve been involved in the caucus, I think that we have put some information out there that is educated the body at the legislature and even the governor’s office. It may be at times, adversarial and some of the things that we worked for have not come to pass maybe and its been diffi-

cult at points on some of the issues that we have resolved and worked through. It is getting better and better as we educate the legislature and the governor and her office.”

That educational portion of the task is enormous. Kirby said some of the thinking he encounters is still Fred Flintstone-ish.

He mentioned a legislator who still thinks Indians get everything for free and don’t have to pay taxes.

I wish that were the case the next time those state and federal income tax bites take a big chunk out of my paycheck.

There’s great news for Creek citizens in the eastern section of the Nation. The tribe will be breaking ground on a new MCN Foods Distribution Center in October. That means MCN citizens from eastern districts who use the foods supplement program will not have to drive long distances to Okmulgee to get that big ol’ chunk of cheese, only to Coweta. The new Foods Distribution center will go up next to the health clinic and will bring a lot of fresh food, vegetables and fruit to those folks. Look for it to open sometime in the summer of 2014.

Did you see where the new Miss America is an Indian? No, not from a federally recognized tribe but, INDIA India. You know, the Taj Mahal, Bollywood, elephants and all that? She was born here, but her family traces back to the Asian country. Beautiful lady.

Nina Davaluri represented the state of New York and during the talent portion, did her own version of a ‘fancy-shawl’ dance based on the traditions of her ancestor’s country.

Davaluri’s win prompted a flurry of racist Twitter comments that were cheap shots on her heritage, that a true ‘American’ should have won the contest and the usual racist tripe that pops up on social media from time to time. She handled it all with grace and elegance.

In one of his recent shows, TV comic commentator Stephen Colbert blasted those hateful comments. At first he was talking about what he thought (Sure!) was an American Indian winner and offered that it was a great thing. He was corrected on air, admitted his mistake and changed his tune, but said, “Maybe Columbus was right?”

On the similar comedy program with Jon Stewart, an Indian (INDIA India) commentator offered: “You took this country away from the Indians (American) and now a different type of Indians is taking it back.”

Not such a white bread world anymore is it? The nation and world are evolving; I think that’s good for all of us.

Here’s something from the Cherokee philosopher, Will Rogers that seems to fit in today: Everything is changing. People are taking the comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke.

Hvtvm Cehecares.



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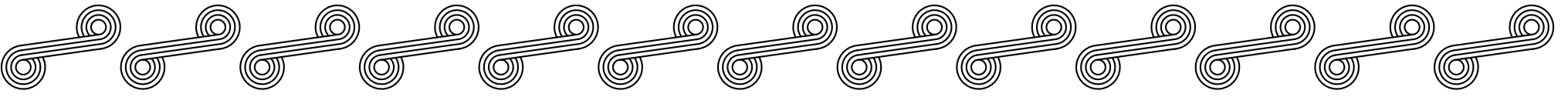
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# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## Event highlights mens' role in domestic violence prevention

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BIG CHESTNUT



### Engaging Men group featured at Warriors Honor Women event

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program hosted the sixth annual Domestic Violence Awareness event Oct. 3 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

At the Warriors Honor Women event, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger proclaimed the month of October Domestic Violence Awareness month for the Nation.

"The Muscogee (Creek) Nation recognizes that domestic violence is a serious crime and whereas the strength of the Nation relies on healthy, peaceful families and the safety of its citizens, especially women and children..."

Warriors Honor Women was comprised of an all-male panel of MCN citizens and employees.

Panel members were chosen based on their support of the Violence Prevention Program.

"We handpicked Tribal members and employees who have been supportive of our program and had a special interest we thought in this issue and the



MNN/Kyla McKown

Justin Giles, member of the domestic violence prevention group 'Engaging Men,' speaks during the sixth annual Domestic Violence Awareness Event Oct. 3 at the Mound Building on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

willingness to work with us and address it," said Family Violence Prevention Program Manager Shawn Partridge.

This group of men has been a part of the 'Engaging Men' movement Family Violence Prevention established in August.

Member Justin Giles emphasized men's role in domestic violence prevention.

"It really was talking about how do we start to include the men's voice in this effort here to bring domestic violence to our

community conscience here," Giles said. "We need not only women's voices but men too because not all domestic violence cases are female so we need to hear both sides. That's really what the group was gathering together for is to further bring the male voice to all this."

In the past, the program featured a survivor panel and victim advocates. This year Partridge and the other advocates decided to utilize a male perspective to encourage awareness and

involvement among other men.

"The importance was to get men engaged in this movement and for them to hear from other men, 'Hey, we as men, we have a responsibility,' Partridge said. "We need to do something and stand up to combat domestic violence. It's not just a woman's issue."

Nearly 300 guests registered at the event.

"We had people standing along the walls and out in the lobby,"

AWARENESS - 3

### Muscogee casino undergoes facelift

Facility invests to stay competitive in northeast Oklahoma

Gary Fife/Editorial Assistant

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — With competition in the northeast Oklahoma gaming market getting tougher, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's second largest casino is investing \$4 million to keep up with competitors.

The Creek Nation Casino Muscogee held a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 3 for a six-phase project, which will change the facility from a bingo hall to a more attractive facility for prospective customers.

"We had to come from a 20-year-old bingo hall to a more modern, more state-of-the-art casino. When you see it in the future, you're not going to recognize what we were, but you're going to see what we've become," said Muscogee Creek Nation Casino General Manager Farrell Kaaihue.

The project will feature a new bar, restaurant and as larger gaming and bingo areas.

Kaaihue explained that the casino had to keep pace with competitors to prevent losing revenue to the Cherokee Casino in Tahlequah, Okla., and new gaming facility in Ft. Gibson, Okla.

"Actually, what drove the project is that we're in a very competitive environment. Our competition has stepped it up with a new casino. We just knew that we had to follow through in order to stay competitive."

According to Kaaihue, the expansion had to be carefully planned to prevent flooding the gaming market.

"We're almost to that saturation point and that's why we're not expanding our gaming floor by a lot; just a little bit. Hopefully for those bigger nights, the bigger sessions that we have; we have enough to accommodate everyone."

Muscogee District MCN National Council Rep. Pete

CASINO - 2

## Tiger announces candidacy for NCAI president

### Tiger explains bid decision, platform

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger is running for president of the National Congress of American Indians.

According to the official website: [www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org), NCAI represents a diverse network of tribal nations, tribal citizens and Native organizations.

Tiger explained why he is running for the position.

"I have had a lot of calls nationally from people with encouraging words about how the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is moving forward in the economic development," Tiger said. "They then asked if I would be interested in pursuing the presidency of NCAI."

NCAI was established in re-



MNN/Sterling Cospoer

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger is running for president of the National Congress of American Indians.

sponse to the termination and assimilation policies the U.S. government forced upon tribal governments in contradiction of their treaty rights and status as sovereign nations.

"The NCAI actually start-

ed here in Oklahoma," Tiger said. "The concept for NCAI was to serve as an advocate for Indian Country in particular with Indian tribal governments. They do a lot of good things. They are kind of our

eyes and ears in Washington, D.C."

Tiger will be running against three other candidates for president of NCAI. The other candidates are Juana Majel-Dixon of the Pauma Band of Luiseno Indian Tribe, Brian Cladoosby of the Swinomish Tribe and Joe A. Garcia of the Pueblo Tribe.

Tiger outlined his NCAI candidacy platform.

"I feel that there are more interests that we need to be more aggressive in for our Indian people," Tiger said. "Sacred sites is one of the big interests. We need to have continued protection over sovereignty because it is attacked everyday. We also need to continue to protect gaming because gaming is a big part of why we are making a big impact locally, in the state and nationally as well."

He also hopes to further en-

NCAI - 3





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STAFF

MANAGER  
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EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
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REPORTER  
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GERALD WOFFORD

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Affordable Care Act impacts Indian health services



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
Under the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, Native Americans without insurance will be required to sign up for Health Insurance Marketplace or request an exemption.

Native heath care affected under new law

Amanda Rutland/MNN  
Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Affordable Care Act is changing healthcare for the U.S., and Indian Country is no different. The U.S. government does not consider Indian Health Services to be a form of insurance.

Under the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, Native Americans without insurance will be required to sign up for Health Insurance Marketplace or request an exemption. The Health Insurance Marketplace, sometimes called the Health Exchange, is the name given to a grouping of insurance providers under Obamacare.

This law creates a centralized insurance resource and is designed to provide affordable and accessible healthcare for the masses.

As of Sept. 18, the Heath Insurance Marketplace lists on their website: www.healthcare.gov/marketplace/individual, that the ACA will also provide tax credits for persons needing additional assistance.

The system also informs citizens if they are eligible to qualify for Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program or Soonercare. Tribal members can enroll or change plans on a monthly basis.

The Marketplace has only one application. Those who complete the application are given access to the various plans available for each family or individual based on which providers are available in their geographical location.

The plans vary in level of coverage and price.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith, Secretary of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health, within the MCN health system 23 percent of citizens have private insurance, 38 percent are covered by Medicaid, and less that 10 percent have Medicare or Veterans Health Benefits.

That means approximately 30 percent of tribal citizens have no form of health coverage other than what they receive through IHS. The majority of these individuals are between the ages of 19 and 64.

The ACA affects healthcare facilities in the MCN jurisdiction by providing additional funding to facilities, which will allow them to provide specialty clinics and additional services. This will

also reduce the amount of Community Health Resource services needed.

“The Affordable Care Act is important for Indian Healthcare because it is a new source of funding because there will be more individuals with health insurance than ever before, and it will assist in providing additional contract health services,” says Smith.

What does this mean for Muscogee (Creek) citizens? Citizens who have a form of private insurance are not required to do anything. However, if citizens with insurance do sign up for the Health Insurance Marketplace, they may not have to pay out-of-pocket expenses, such as copays or deductibles.

“They [Native Americans] are exempt from most cost sharing, which means copays and deductibles,” said Smith.

Smith goes on to state that effective Jan. 1, 2014, citizens who not have insurance will have to sign up under the new marketplace or be taxed. However, tribal members may apply for a tax exemption through the Health Exchange during the year or when filling year-end taxes.

According to the Heath Exchange website, certain Native Americans may qualify for zero cost sharing plans. This is based on income. This type of plan allows the individual to seek care anywhere for no cost and with no referral.

“If they qualify for [zero cost sharing] then they can utilize any system they choose,” said Smith.

To qualify for zero cost sharing plans, household income needs to be below 300 percent of the federal poverty level, which is an annual salary of \$30,630 for a single individual, and \$70,650 for a household of four.

Persons above the poverty level, may choose the limited cost sharing plans. With this type of plan, there is still no cost sharing if services are provided at a tribal facility. Citizens will still have access to tribal health facilities but this may mean that they will have additional coverage.

“You can go to your Indian Health Facility. Like, at our facilities our Patient Benefits Coordinators will have this information,” Smith said.

Sign up began Oct. 1 and citizens may sign up at local clinics through the patient benefits coordinator, who will be able to answer any questions that citizens may have. The MCN DOH will also be hosting health fairs for citizens to sign up at their local communities.

For more information call MCN DOH at: 918-756-4333.

CASINO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Rendering Courtesy of Muscogee Creek Nation Casino  
The Muscogee Nation Casino in Muskogee held a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 3 for a six phase project, which will change the facility from a bingo hall to a more attractive facility for prospective customers.

Beaver said he backed the casino expansion plan to meet the competition.

“The Cherokees have a new casino and we were losing revenue and I think what this will do, with the new building here, is show that Creeks are going to be even better. It will help the economy of the Muscogee area.”

Council Rep. Eddie LaGrone also represents the Muscogee District. He said the new expansion made good financial sense.

“It is a prudent business decision. It’s based in research and investigation. The market commands that we move forward with a healthy enterprise and this is part of it.”

He was confident that the new renovations would meet their expectations as a money-maker.

“All the numbers indicate that this facility will be as successful as projected and I anticipate it exceeding the expectations. This is only the beginning. This is the Phase One expansion.”

LaGrone added that Phase Two would include a hotel.

He estimated that the current Muscogee gaming facility had added about \$1 million a month to the MCN tribal treasury. Over the last several months, he felt significant revenue was being lost to competitors.

“As we saw the Cherokee facility, down the road begin to grow and develop, our revenue began to diminish. We are at a \$700,000 now. Over the last year, 300,000 times 12 is about \$4 million. So, we’re going to regain that lost revenue back many times over. I suspect that by the time this phase is completed and the second phase complete with the hotel construction that we will double the revenue of this facility to the Muscogee Nation.”

Kaaihue expects the first phase to be completed by February 2014, which will give the casino a change on the existing area, expand the gaming floor and provide other amenities for customers.

MFSI, Okmulgee form childhood obesity, hunger awareness partnership



Okmulgee Mayor Steven Baldridge poses with Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative representatives. Left to right: Sue White, Baldridge, June Marshall and Stephanie Berryhill.

Mayor declares action campaign day

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative in conjunction with the City of Okmulgee held a press conference Sept. 20 at the MFSI office, where Okmulgee Mayor Steven Baldridge proclaimed Sept. 23 as Take Your Place Social Action Campaign Day in an effort to promote childhood obesity and hunger awareness in the community.

The Take Your Place Social Action Campaign brings together experts, companies and community leaders to inform citizens of the hunger and obesity rates throughout the country and encourage change through action.

Baldridge presented the proclamation again Sept. 23 during a free public viewing of the documentary ‘A Place at the Table’ at the Rowe Family Life Center. A free meal was provided before the viewing.

“It explains how even though you can be well fed and lead a healthy lifestyle there are a lot of people who are not,” Baldridge said. They do go hungry and the statistics are right. One in five

children do go hungry. That is not only affecting our country but right here in Okmulgee.”

June Marshall, MFSI Community Coordinator and Office Manager believes this proclamation is for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and everyone who lives in Okmulgee and the surrounding area.

“We had our meeting here Monday night with a positive turnout,” Marshall said. “It was around 40 people that came this evening. You always want more but we were very happy with who did show up.”

During the screening, discussions took place with representatives from other food programs and members of the audience.

“What is amazing for the programs here is we all pretty much found out what the programs do around here,” Marshall said. “We have schools, churches and food banks that offer programs that do help out our families here.”

Baldridge and Marshall hope the Okmulgee campaign will be a model for other communities.

“We are hoping for it to be a big success and we want to share it with other communities that are fighting hunger like ours,” Baldridge said.

For more information contact MFSI at: 918-756-5915.



NCAI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

courage unity among tribal nations.

“As Indian people, sometimes we have a tendency to be territorial and that has hurt us in the past,” Tiger said.

Tiger has served on numerous boards in the past and hopes to utilize this experience as NCAI president.

He believes that a new position as NCAI president will blend well with his current role as MCN principal chief.

“I think being president will also help with not only the other tribes throughout the U.S. that I will be representing but also the tribe that I am the principal chief for.” Tiger said. “Both of these positions will and do compliment each other.”

The 70th annual NCAI Convention and Marketplace will be held Oct. 13-18 in Tulsa, Okla.

AWARENESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Partridge said. “We were just overwhelmed and thrilled at the overwhelming response. I don’t even know the last time I’ve seen the Mound packed like that.”

According to Partridge, the event wouldn’t have been possible without the support of the men involved.

Event panelist, MCN Senior Services Manager David Dunson, said his participation in the event stemmed from being a father, grandfather and husband.

“We want to teach these men to not let society teach or train us how to be men. We should have that ability within our own families from learning from our elders,” Dunson said.

The 'Engaging Men' group is available for men seeking consolatory services.

“If they need help, if there’s young men out there or any age, if they need help with whatever is bothering them and they want someone to talk to they can give us a call,” Dunson said.

Partridge is pleased with how much the event has grown since her program first held it six years ago.

“With our increased efforts, awareness and education and to have our leadership also involved and present and engaged and supportive, I think that sends a really strong message to people that the MCN means business and we’re not going to tolerate domestic violence against women.”

Partridge also wanted to give a special thanks to Giles.

“Justin is such a tremendous support because he’s not only participated in our PSA’s, he’s an important leader when it comes to the Engaging Men movement.

“It was obvious yesterday just the role that he played in leading and moderating the whole event. He’s a dynamic speaker and we just appreciate his support so very much,” Partridge.

The program is already planning the event for next year and hopes to find a larger venue to accommodate the number of attendees.

Family Violence Prevention is planning to hold events and set up booths in January 2014 for Stalking Awareness Month and will hold the sixth annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event in April as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

For information about joining or contacting the 'Engaging Men' group or information regarding domestic abuse, contact the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program at: 918-732-7869.

Forum features upcoming employment, contract opportunities



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office Director Rob Daugherty speaks Oct. 2 about upcoming employment opportunities, which will be made available through the River Spirit Casino expansion project.

River Spirit, Okemah Hospital project jobs outlined by TERO entities

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office and Department of Education and Training hosted a job forum at the Multipurpose Building Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex Oct. 2 in Okmulgee.

The Redstone and Manhattan construction management teams were presenters for the event.

The forum targeted individuals and TERO vendors who may be interested in job opportunities contracted through the River Spirit Casino expansion project. Vendors were provided with information about the project and how they can be involved.

The two-year project will provide an opportunity for Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are looking for employment in the construction field.

Darren Buzzard, Business Development Manager for the Redstone and Manhattan Construction companies talked about the employment opportunities for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

“When it is time for employment we will be pulling from the job banks with TERO to be able to help Creek and tribal citizens get employed and be able to put them to work,” Buzzard said.

“We are trying to give our Indian people the best opportunity for employment being how this is such a large job for everyone.”

MCN TERO Director Rob Daugherty explained the expansion process to vendors.

“We wanted to have all the TERO certified companies come out today and meet the Redstone and Manhattan construction teams,” Daugherty said. “These two management teams are going to be heading the construction for the expansion.”

TERO vendors will be given preferential priority when bidding on work for the different phases of the project.

“There was an amazing turnout today with all the TERO certified companies,” Daugherty said. “We anticipated a certain number but we got a lot more.”

The MCN along with Redstone and Manhattan construction are looking to have more job fairs as the groundbreaking date for the expansion nears. Other opportunities for employment will be available through the new Okemah hospital construction project.

“One project we have been awarded is the Okemah Hospital,” Buzzard said. “Not sure on the timeframe as everything is getting ironed out. So we want to have a few more job fairs to help citizens gain employment for not only River Spirit but Okemah Hospital when that time comes.”

Scholarship Foundation holds recognition evening



MNN/Jessica McBride  
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation held Recognition Evening 2013, Sept. 28 to honor foundation sponsors and announce the program's future goals. Pictured are scholarship donors Cherrah and Justin Giles, and Dr. Pete Coser, Director of the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation.

Event announces accomplishments, goals

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program held Recognition Evening 2013, Sept. 28 at the Okmulgee Golf and Country Club in Okmulgee. The event announced the accomplishments and future goals of the program.

Donors to the program and influential people with the Scholarship Foundation were honored with awards.

MCN Scholarship Foundation Executive Committee President, Bill Fife spoke about supporting the future of the tribe through scholarship opportunities.

“We all have to work together... We have to spread the word and raise some money for this scholarship program,” Fife said.

Nancy Mason, MCN Employment and Training Administration Youth Coordinator, entertained the crowd by singing.

Dr. Pete Coser, MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program Director shared some of the objectives and accomplishments of the program along with his goal to reach out to MCN citizens and employees.

“Eventually I will visit with everybody,” Coser said.

A portion of the funds raised by the MCN Hall of Fame event Oct. 12 at the River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Okla., will go to the Scholarship Foundation.

Program provides stalking prevention training



MNN/Kyla McKown  
Jerry Isaacs trains MCN jurisdiction law enforcement agencies how to recognize stalking.

FVPP offers CLEET training for police

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program teamed up with Creek County Sheriff’s Office to provide a CLEET certified training for law enforcement that helps recognize stalking.

The training was held as part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, at the Central Technology Center in Sapulpa, Okla.

Three MCN Lighthorse police officers were present for the course, which was taught by Jerry Isaacs.

Isaacs was chosen due to his experience managing the Tulsa Police Department domestic violence unit. He worked with TPD for 27 years before retiring. Over the years, he has taught this stalking curriculum to more than 20 areas in the state.

“So basically, we developed a curriculum for our investigators to teach them how to better investigate the crime and standards of investigation,” Isaacs said.

He also said law enforcement’s main goal should be to mitigate stalking that turns into domestic violence.

“... We want to identify stalking behaviors and intervene to hopefully prevent and avoid someone being injured,” Isaacs said.

An important aspect of noticing stalking behavior is to know the statutes and laws regarding stalking.

“You have to know what you’re looking for in order to prosecute,” Isaacs said.

MCN FVPP sponsors response teams

Courts, law enforcement and advocates coordinate

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is working with counties within the tribal jurisdiction by sponsoring Coordinated Community Response teams to address domestic violence issues.

MCN currently sponsors three CCR teams in Okmulgee, Okfuskee and Hughes Counties. MCN Family Violence Prevention advocates also serve on teams in other counties such as Creek and Waggoner.

The MCN sponsored CCR teams assist people in the MCN jurisdiction including non-tribal members.

Tina Quails, MCN Family Violence Prevention Program Victims Advocate said that without these programs, victims of domestic violence would be less likely to come forward.

“We’re providing services to people in rural areas where they possibly wouldn’t get those services,” Quails said.

Quails said that they hope to sponsor more teams within the

ecute,” Isaacs said.

MCN Lighthorse Sgt. Richard Phillips, is over the Reserves and also Morris Police Department assistant chief, said this is knowledge for both departments.

“We’re trying to deter it. Being here and seeing this is basically one more tool for our tool box.”

Phillips believes stalking and domestic violence could be an ever-growing problem because of the economy.

“We’re seeing more and more domestic cases. I’m going to say 80 percent of the Morris Police force is here at this training,” Phillips said.

Denise McCrary, MCN Family Violence Prevent Program Advocate, believes stalking is a concern for the tribe and for citizens of the communities within the MCN jurisdiction.

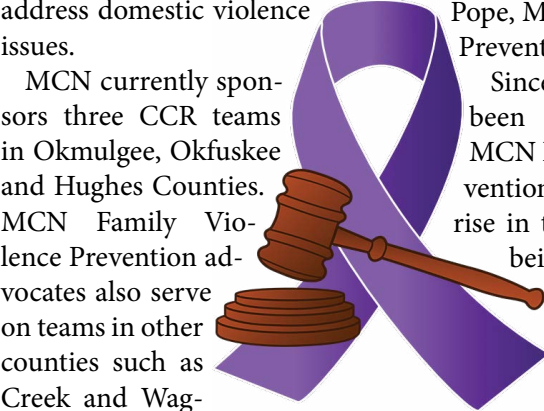
“Creek County is well into our jurisdiction and we want to make sure everybody in our boundaries and (Creek) jurisdiction is aware of this issue,” McCrary said.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention Program has reached out to a number of women this year through these training courses and other outlets.

“Last year we served 160 women, actually gave service to; some we have to refer to other services but that we actually helped,” McCrary said. “This year, we’re already at 162 so we’ll far exceed that total this year.”

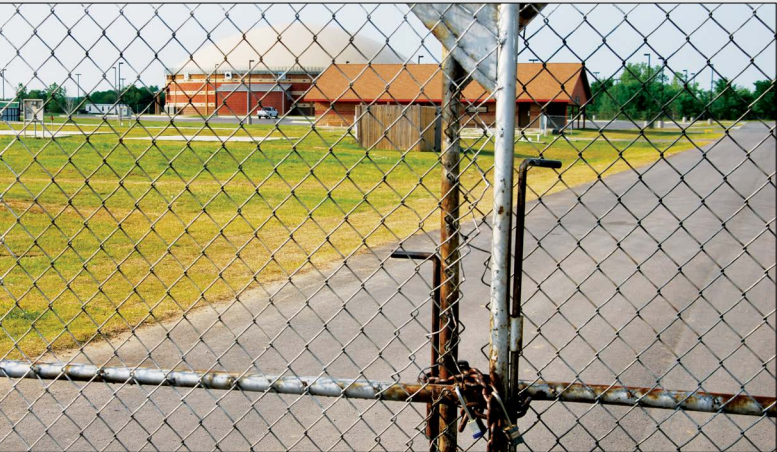
She believes that the program is building momentum on the impact they’ve made.

“The more we’re getting out there and speaking, doing trainings the more people are coming forth and getting service.”





Funding for Dome repairs addressed during Council session



MNN File Photo  
Two pieces of legislation were addressed regarding the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Multipurpose Building Sept 28 during a regular session of the MCN National Council.

Council considers appropriations for Dome, communities

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Sept. 28 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 13-120 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN Department of Health and Okmulgee Public Schools. Rep. Keeper Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-121 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN DOH and Beggs Public Schools. Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-122 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum agreement between the MCN and the City of Eufaula. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-123 Approving the administrative conditions of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant awarded to the MCN Geospatial Department. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-124 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a Direct Care Services Reimbursement Agreement between the MCN DOH and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-125 Authorizing the principal chief to execute agreements between the MCN DOH and several public school districts to provide behavioral health/substance abuse services to students. Rep. Pearl Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-126 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a Practicum Placement Program Agreement between DOH and the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents. Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-127 Authorizing the principal chief to execute agreements between the MCN DOH and Wes Watkins Technology Center, a part of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education System. Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-128 Authorizing the principal chief to execute memorandum agreements between MCN DOH and Bristow, Morris and Preston public schools. Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-129 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and contractor and the general conditions of

the contract for construction between the Nation and Creekside Management Group for construction services at the Nation’s Multipurpose Facility. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-130 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a trademark license agreement with PFS Corporation for inspection of the Nation’s Structural Insulated Panel manufacturing plant for commercial production. Rep. Adam Jones III sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-131 Establishing tribal membership in the National Congress of American Indians. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-205 Authorizing special appropriation of \$483,500 to the Checotah Indian Community. Jones sponsored the amendment, which failed 7-10 with Reps. David Nichols, Thomas Yahola, Pete Beaver, Frank Coachman, Johnnie Greene, David Hill, Robert Hufft, Randolph, Barnett and Johnson voting against it. A motion made by Jones to reconsider the amendment failed 8-9 with Greene, Hill, Hufft, Johnson, Nichols, Randolph, Yahola, Barnett and Beaver voting against it.
- NCA 13-212 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 19, Section 2-103 to increase the stipend of MCN Election Board members. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the amendment, which 16-1 with Johnson voting against it.
- NCA 13-213 Repealing MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 3, entitled “Medical Travel Fund” and replacing it with a new Title 35, Chapter 3, entitled “Medical Travel Assistance.” Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-217 Authorizing a donation of \$5,000 to Depew Public Schools. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-2 with Reps. Kara Medina and Johnson voting against it.
- NCA 13-218 Authorizing the expenditure of \$500,000 awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the MCN GIS for the implementation of the MCN-FY 2013 Exchange Network. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-219 Amending MCNCA 13-058 reaffirming support for the protection of the Muscogee sacred site of Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Ala., and authorizing special appropriation for the cost of necessary measures related there to. Reps. Eddie LaGrone, Coachman, Nichols, Barnett and Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-220 Authorizing a donation of \$1,000 to the Native American United Methodist Church in Anaheim, Calif. Hill, Coachman and Nichols and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-221 Authorizing a \$10,000 expenditure of the

MCN DOH Investment Account funds for incidental costs associated with the purchase of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-1 with Medina voting against it.

- NCA 13-222 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$158,896 to the Sapulpa Indian Community. Reps. Lena Wind and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-3 with Coachman, Johnson and Nichols voting against it.
- NCA 13-223 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$300,000 to Holdenville Indian Community. Yahola, Thomas and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-3 with Coachman, Johnson and Nichols voting against it.
- NCA 13-225 Repealing MCNCA Title 4, Sections 1-101 and 1-104 and creating the Tribal Burial Assistance and Food for Funeral Guidelines under MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 13. Greene sponsored the amendment, was to be postponed for two weeks for Council to speak with MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.
- NCA 13-226 Appropriating \$1,083,000 to be used for construction services at the Nation’s Multi-Purpose Facility. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-227 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$686,181 to the Wilson Indian Community. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-6 with Nichols, Johnson, Beaver, Coachman, Greene and Hill voting against it.
- NCA 13-228 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,500 to the Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-229 Authorizing a donation of \$5,000 for the Annual National Tribal Judicial and Court Clerks Conference. Speaker Sam Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-230 Authorizing an appropriation of \$25,000 for the Tribal membership fees with the National Congress of American Indians. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-231 Authorizing a donation of \$1,000 to a political candidate. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-3 with Medina, Nichols and Randolph voting against it.
- NCA 13-233 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$1,000 to Middle Creek #2 Baptist Church. Reps. Robert Hufft, Hill and Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-1 with Johnson voting against it.
- NCA 13-239 Authorizing a donation of \$5,000 to assist the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference for the Legacy of the Past Hope for the Future Benefit Gala and Silent Auction. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-240 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$500 to Newtown Indian United Methodist Church. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.
- NCA 13-241 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$750 to Creek Chapel Methodist Church. Coachman and Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.

Present, former representatives gather for National Council dinner



MNN/Darren DeLaune  
Left to right: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, former MCN National Council Reps. Perry Beaver and Bill Fife during the Council dinner Sept. 12 at the Mvskoke Dome.

Attendees reflect on changes in the Council over the years

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A dinner was held Sept. 12 for present and former Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representatives at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee. Also in attendance were MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and Second Chief Roger Barnett, who are former Council representatives.

The representatives introduced themselves during the dinner, which featured former National Council attorney Geoffrey Standingbear, as the master of ceremonies.

MCN National Council Speaker Sam Alexander said the event is the first to honor former Council representatives.

“It’s overdue and I am honored to be involved with it,” Alexander said.

Richard Larney, former Council representative of the Okmulgee District from 1981-83, felt the event was long overdue and commented on how the legislative body has changed over the years.

“We didn’t have much back then but I can see the growth now; buying property doing a lot of things,” Larney said.

He also believes the Nation is

The 2013 gathering of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association was held Oct. 5 at the Native American United Methodist Church in Anaheim. Due to the federal government shutdown, our Muscogee (Creek) Nation guests had to cancel. However, we held the event anyway, since many folks were already on the road. About 150 citizens attended, so many old-timers, as well as citizens from Seattle, Sacramento, Bakersfield, San Diego and numerous other places. Invocation was given by Pastor Greg of the host church, with special prayer for CMCA President, Eli Grayson, who is very ill and unable to be with us.

The potluck was just great. One citizen brought a huge platter of home smoked salmon (thank you Ben Adams). The master of ceremonies duty was traded back and forth by CMCA

able to help more citizens financially.

“Helping citizens is a lot better,” Larney said. “They didn’t have the funds to help a lot of people then.”

Larney isn’t the only councilman who has seen changes over the years. Barnett said he has seen changes in regards to communication and economic development since his time as a representative from 1998-2011.

Barnett who is now with the MCN Executive Branch, said there really isn’t much difference between being a Council representative and second chief.

He noted however, that as second chief, he now works with the laws put in place by the Council and with MCN programs and departments more than dealing directly with calls from citizens.

Alexander mentioned the changes he has seen since he started on the Council in 2006. He believes the representatives have improved the productivity of the Council through further utilization of technology.

“One thing I’ve noticed right away is the preparation the National Council has. When they show up to meetings, they’re provided with a lot of information through the Internet, email, all kinds of gadgets for them to use and they’re taking advantage of them,” Alexander said.

“The meetings run a lot better.”

board members, Ken Taylor and George Windes. Lucian Tiger III had traveled from Oklahoma to be with us and made a fine presentation. Jason Nichols came from San Diego. He is a regular at our yearly gatherings. Mary Windes did table centerpieces and had Native games for the children, George Windes had a historic photo display and helped folks with their genealogy.

After four hours, it was time to close. Citizen (and board member) Jane C a z a b a t, told a Native American story and prayed in the Mvskoke language. The women and men of the host church were wonderful to help with set up, break down and clean up of the church fellowship hall. Thanks to all who participated and to MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and the MCN for the donation to the church. Another CMCA gathering is planned Saturday Dec. 28 at Sherman Indian HS in Riverside, Calif.

- Mvto!









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Welcome, George Philip Tiger, Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of OK  
Past President, Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes

Opening Remarks by John D. Red Eagle, Principal Chief, Osage Nation of OK

Symposium Presenters:

- » George Thompson, Muscogee (Creek), Mekko, Oce Vpofv (Hickory Ground) Tribal Town
- » Mario Gonzalez, Esq., Oglala Lakota, Attorney at Law
- » Suzan Shown Harjo, PhD, Cheyenne & Hodulgee Muscogee, *Moderator*, President, The Morning Star Institute
- » James Riding In, Ph.D., Pawnee, Associate Professor, American Indian Studies, Arizona State University, and Editor, Wicazo Sa Review
- » John Trudell, Santee Sioux, Poet, Performer, Recording Artist
- » Richard Ray Whitman, Euchee & Pawnee, Artist, Actor, Poet

Art Exhibit Opens and Silent Auction Begins at 11:30 am - featuring Items Donated to NIMI Plus Artists Mel Cornshucker, Shan Goshorn, Clancy Gray, Kenneth Johnson, Merlin Little Thunder, America Meredith, Tim Tate Nevaquaya, Traci Rabbit, Richard Ray Whitman and More!

**NCAI CANDIDATE FORUM: ALL NCAI OFFICER CANDIDATES ARE INVITED TO SPEAK CONCERNING PROTECTION OF ANCESTORS AND SACRED PLACES**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit bus rides every 15 minutes from 11:15 am to 5:30 pm roundtrip from the Southeast Corner of the Cox Business Center to the front of the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame

*Sponsors: Oce Vpofv (Hickory Ground), National Indian Monument and Institute, The Morning Star Institute, George Tiger for NCAI President, Intertribal Sacred Land Trust, Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, Tulsa Indian Art Festival*

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: )  
T.M.K., DOB: 8/19/2008, )  
A minor child. )

**SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE**

TO: The unknown birth father of T.M.K.  
Where the birth mother is T.D. Conley

TAKE NOTICE you have been sued for adoption of the Minor Child, T.M.K., in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, AD-2012-08, styled In the Matter of the Adoption of T.M.K., a minor child. The action alleges the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Adoption of the minor child.

You are notified you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioners or appear on the 1st day of November, 2013, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioners as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 17 day of June, 2013.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court  
Okmulgee District

By: Decca Peck  
(Deputy)

Provided by:  
June A. Stanley, MCN#469  
Stanley Law Firm, PLLC  
122 N. Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 644-3449 – phone  
(918) 258-8893 – fax  
*Attorney for Petitioners*

C:\Users\June\Desktop\Stanley Law Firm, PLLC\Adoptions\Keele, Henry and Vicki\svc.summons.pub.06122013.keele.henry.doc

DISTRICT COURT  
FILED

CASE NO. AD-2012-08

Honorable Judge Donna Beaver

Judge of the District Court  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
DONNA BEAVER  
COURT CLERK

JUN 17 PM 3 50

## MCN citizens qualify for INFR



MNN/Sterling Cospers  
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ryan Roberts, during the 39th Mvskoke Nation Festival Rodeo. Roberts will compete during the 2013 Indian National Rodeo Finals in Las Vegas.

## Region 8 riders to compete in Las Vegas for rodeo finals

Kyla McKown/Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Two Muscogee (Creek) citizens have qualified for the Indian National Finals Rodeo from Region 8.

The finals will be held Nov. 5-9 at South Pointe Casino in Las Vegas.

“That’s everybody’s goal is to make that. There are only 32 spots in each event that can make it in the eight different events,” said Perry Anderson, Mvskoke Festival Rodeo coordinator.

“As far as I know we’re going to have it again. We had a very good turnout,” Anderson said. “I think 40,000 attended the (Creek) Festival, and we probably had about 8,000 at the rodeo alone.”

Anderson said at the world championship in Las Vegas, the winners could make \$8,000 - \$10,000.

In order to qualify for the finals, you can either be a regional year-round winner in each event or win by points, which award \$1 for each point.

“The secret is to going to all the rodeos,” Anderson said.

The two (Creek) citizen qualifiers are Ryan Roberts of Okmulgee and Walt White of Ochelata, Okla.

Roberts will be attending the

**"WE HAD A VERY GOOD TURNOUT. I THINK 40,000 ATTENDED THE (CREEK) FESTIVAL, AND WE PROBABLY HAD ABOUT 8,000 AT THE RODEO ALONE."**

**-PERRY ANDERSON, MVSKOKE FESTIVAL RODEO COORDINATOR**

From the Arrington-McSpadden Tour Rodeo this year, which is INFR Region 8, there were 17 finals qualifiers.

Region 8 is made up of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Texas and participants must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe.

The Mvskoke Nation 2013 Festival Rodeo was part of the Arrington-McSpadden Tour Rodeo. The event brought contestants from 12 different states and 18 tribes across the country for a total of 260 entries.

This was the 41st Festival Rodeo and only the 40th year for the festival. The event continues to grow.

INFR for the third time. He has been attending the Tour Rodeo for the past four years. Roberts was seventh in the world two years ago in Las Vegas.

Roberts is thankful for his family’s support and looks forward to the event.

“I’m thankful my family is supporting me,” Roberts said.

“Go up there and ride, and hopefully I bring back the title.”

He plans to keep attending Indian rodeos and hopes to make it to the Professional Bull Riding Association.

For more information, visit the INFR website at: [www.INFR.org](http://www.INFR.org).



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[www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov)



## Jazzercise incorporates dancing in a workout environment



MNN/Jessica McBride  
Instructor Pamela Smith teaches Jazzercise at South County Recreation Center in Bixby, Okla.

## Certified instructor teaches classes in Bixby

Jessica McBride/Reporter

BIXBY, Okla. — Citizens who are looking for a new workout routine can take advantage of a opportunity in Bixby. Jazzercise combines aerobic exercise and strength training with a series of dance elements performed to popular music. Pamela Smith, Jazzercise instructor at South County Recreation Center in Bixby believes that this workout is different from other popular workouts such as Zumba.



MNN/Jessica McBride  
“We have a couple of teens come in here all the way to we have a couple of ladies that are in their upper 70s’-80s’,” - Jazzercise instructor Pamela Smith

“In Jazzercise we do strength at the end. We either do tubes, we have those big yoga balls or we do weights and that kind of sets us apart. After the cardio we do strength training,” Smith said. Jazzercise allows for individuals to customize their workout with low or high impact modifications to accommodate different participants at different fitness levels. The 60-minute workout routine uses the perceived exertion chart to guide an individual to their target heart rate for maximum effectiveness. The routine also accommodates a broad range of ages and groups. “We have a couple of teens come in here all the way to we have a couple of ladies that are in their upper seventies and eighties,” Smith said. “You do not have to be fit. You go at your

own speed, at your own level.” Judi Sheppard Missett created the workout routine in 1972. Missett taught jazz dance classes for several years prior to forming Jazzercise Inc. In order to become a certified Jazzercise instructor, you must be CPR certified and complete a workshop to become an instructor. To maintain your certification you must attend the district meetings held twice a year. New routines are provided to instructors every 10 weeks so that music and movements are up to date. Smith started taking Jazzercise classes while she was working as a babysitter at the

recreation center in Bixby. After taking classes for several months, Smith’s instructor convinced her to pursue the instructor certification. She has been an instructor for over three years. “I found that with being a mother of three small kids this was my out,” said Smith. “I could come in here with other women and exercise.” For Smith, the list of benefits of Jazzercise is lengthy. She feels the best she has ever felt since beginning the workout routine. “I used to wear a polar watch and some classes I would burn 680 calories in an hour,” Smith said. Pamela Smith is the wife of Secretary of the MCN Division of Health Lt. Commander Seneca Smith. For more information about Jazzercise and classes in your area visit: [www.jazzercise.com](http://www.jazzercise.com).

## CMN emphasizes culture while educating students



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
The College of the Muscogee Nation, located in Okmulgee, Okla., combines culture and education.

## Students, faculty talk about advantages, aspirations








Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — “Preserving the past and cultivating futures.” This is the College of the Muscogee Nation motto. “Something we always say is that this college is a monument to our ancestors,” Regents Director of Institutional Effectiveness Dr. James King said. “When they were removed from the Southeast United States to here, their ability to survive and persevere and the sacrifices they made are the foundation we have here... We always want to remember, you know, our ancestors and the culture and the language.” The college, established in 2004, may become the first accredited tribal college in the state. The college is a candidate for accreditation under the Higher Learning Commission North Central Association. CMN expects that they could have their accreditation as soon as November 2014. CMN is partnered with the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, Okla., so that courses can transfer to any institution that accepts OSU credits. Currently students are required to be dual enrolled at both CMN and OSU-IT and admission is open to both Native Americans and non-Natives. Once CMN receives their accreditation, they expect to continue their relationship with OSU. With a retention rate of 37 percent, the college administration is pleased with

the number of students who return after their first year to continue their education at CMN. “So that to us just demonstrates that one; there was a need for us here in this community and two; you know we’re doing well,” said Angela Bunner, Dean of Academic Affairs. The college offers coursework for associate degrees and certificate programs including tribal services, Mvskoke language, gaming, Native American studies and police science. The CMN building, located along Oklahoma Loop 56 in Okmulgee holds eight classrooms including and the college broke ground June 10 on a new 20,000 square foot student center. The college offers approximately 45 classes each semester. According to CMN Registrar Mekko Tyner, over 130 students have graduated from the college. Many types of financial aid are accepted at CMN. Students are recommended to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which can be located at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), to obtain federal grants and eligibility for work-study programs. Currently, federal aid for CMN is provided through OSU-IT. CMN hopes to be able to distribute federal aid to students starting in the spring 2014 semester. The college also works with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Administration to assist Muscogee (Creek) students with obtaining scholarships and grants available through the tribe. The goal of the financial aid program at CMN is to keep the students debt free. “We want to keep them debt





free so that when they get out of here and continue on to a four year university and have a lot of their basic courses out of the way and zero debt to put them in a better position,” Dean of Student Affairs Monte Randall said. CMN offers tuition waiver application for federally enrolled Native American students who are not Muscogee (Creek). Financial aid workshops are provided by CMN on subjects such as FAFSA and writing essays for the American Indian College Fund scholarship. CMN offers on campus student housing for full-time students. To help confirm that the college is teaching relevant job skills and offering programs that allow students to obtain a career, the college follows up with graduates through a survey. CMN also maintains a strong relationship with MCN to recruit students as employees at the Nation. Tutoring is provided at no cost for CMN students. Muscogee (Creek) students who attend kindergarten-12th grade have also been able to utilize the service. Rachel Sourjohn, 2013 CMN graduation student respondent and current Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation, believes the CMN motto is filling. “I personally believe that a lot of students, they kind of have a disattachment between their education and their culture. They feel like they have to choose one or the other,” said Sourjohn. “They have that connection at a tribal college, especially this one. It feels like home.” For more information about CMN visit: [www.mvsktc.org](http://www.mvsktc.org) or call: 918-549-2800.


# MOVIE NIGHT!



## ATTENTION: MUSCOGEE (CREEK) VETERANS ALL BRANCHES

In Honor of Muscogee Veterans the VASO will be hosting  
**“MOVIE NIGHT”**  
**(Friday, 18 October 2013)**  
• Showtime - 1900 Hrs.  
Location - Veterans Building (MCN Complex)  
Movie - **“THE BRIDGES AT TOKO-RI”** (with William Holden and Grace Kelly)  
Drinks - Coke & Diet Coke (Free Of Charge) • Chow - Popcorn (Free Of Charge)  
Smoking Lamp is Lit • Price of Admission - FREE (Adults only)  
• Muscogee Veterans plus one adult guest  
Any questions call Shawn Taryole at the MCN VASO (918) 732-7745







# SPECIAL PRESENTATION

## VETERANS DAY CEREMONY 8 NOVEMBER 2013 (FRIDAY)

EVENT: 1030

Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Mound Auditorium • Okmulgee, OK

CHOW: 1100-1230

OneFire Casino  
Okmulgee, OK



VASO will be hosting an extraordinary historical presentation. Two special guests are flying into Okmulgee, Oklahoma from different states for this presentation. This special event will bring forth the contributions and sacrifices of one of our tribe's veterans. It is doubtful a presentation of this type of sentimental retrieval will be witnessed again.

# MUSCOGEE VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

HOSTED BY ONEFIRE CASINO

- Free chow provided by OneFire Casino
- 1230-1600 - a \$500 cash drawing every 30 minutes until 1600
  - This drawing is open only to Muscogee veterans
  - Muscogee veterans must register upon arrival at casino
- Please provide proof of Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship
  - Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest
- If you do not have a Muscogee Veterans vest, please provide proof of military service
  - Muscogee veterans are encouraged to bring family members for chow
- Only Muscogee veterans may participate in cash drawing



SPONSORED BY:

ONEFIRE  
CASINO



This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming



BLUE is BETTER

EXPANDING YOUR EXPERIENCE

Creek Nation Casino in Muskogee wants you to know that Blue is Better! Over the next few months Creek Nation Casino in Muskogee will be going through over four million dollars’ worth of upgrades and expansions! Upgrades include a new bar, a new restaurant, new bingo and table games areas, and they are adding over 100 new electronic games!

Visit [CreekNationCasino.NET](http://CreekNationCasino.NET) for more information and stop by to check in on the progress! Creek Nation Casino in Muskogee, Green is Great, and Blue is Better!



3420 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee OK 74401  
[www.creeknationcasino.net](http://www.creeknationcasino.net)



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“Luckstrikeshere”





# MCN COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL EVENTS

## SHELL CARVING CLASS PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Cultural Preservation is seeking citizens interested in participating in shell carving classes. Classes will be three to four hours Monday - Thursday.

The exact dates will be announced depending on citizens' interest. Supplies and materials will be furnished and class size will be limited.

To sign up, please call Johnnie at: 918-732-7733.

## SCIC TO HOST FLU SHOT PROVISION FOR MCN ELDERS OCT. 17

SAPULPA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Sapulpa Clinic is set to provide free flu vaccinations Oct. 17 from 12-2 p.m. at the Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center, 1020 N. Brown, Sapulpa, OK.

MCN Citizenship Cards are required.

For more information contact Loretta Freeman at: 918-227-9627.

## INDIAN TACO DINNER SET FOR OCT. 18-19

TULSA, Okla. — An Indian Taco dinner is set for 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 18-19 at Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church, 1901 N. College Ave. Tulsa, OK.

Tacos are \$7 and include a dessert and drink. Delivery is available Oct. 18 for orders of five or more.

For more information or to place an order call: 918-834-1956 or email: tulsaindianUMC@outlook.com.

## YUCHI HERITAGE FESTIVAL SET FOR OCT. 18-19

KELLYVILLE, Okla. — The Yuchi Heritage Festival is set for Oct. 18-19 at the Creek County Fairgrounds, 17806 W. Highway 66, Kellyville, OK. The event runs from 6-11 p.m., Oct. 18 and 12 p.m.-12 a.m., Oct. 19.

For more information call Lucian Tiger at: 918-271-3611 or Kathy Holloway at: 918-695-0195.

## LARNEY/SCOTT FAMILY REUNION SET FOR OCT. 19

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A Larney/Scott Family Reunion is set for Oct. 19 at the Holdenville Indian Community Center, 221 E. Poplar St. Holdenville, OK.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. and everyone should bring a covered dish and door prize.

For more information call Jensie Jimboy at: 405-712-2391 or Angie Nunnully at: 405-476-8889.

## ANNUAL FALL REVIVAL SET FOR OCT. 21-25

HENRYETTA, Okla. — An annual Fall Revival is set for 7 p.m. nightly Oct. 21-25 at Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church in Henryetta located south of Salem and Yardeeka Community.

The speaker will be Pastor/Rev. Claiborn Fields of New Hope Baptist Church in Vernon, Okla. Pastor Mitchell Taylor welcomes all to come and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Refreshments will be served nightly.

## FALL FESTIVAL SET FOR OCT. 23-27

OKEMAH, Okla. — A Fall Festival is set for Oct. 23-27 at Montesoma Indian Baptist Church. The event will begin at 7 p.m. Oct. 23-26 and 11 a.m. Oct. 27. The speaker will be Rev. Fred Fudge.

## TCIC TREASURER ELECTION TENTATIVELY SET FOR OCT. 24

TULSA, Okla. — A Tulsa Creek Indian Community Business Board election is tentatively set for Oct. 24 for the treasurer position.

For more information contact TCIC at: 918-298-2464.

## MIDDLE CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL SET FOR OCT. 25

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Middle Creek #2 Church has scheduled an annual Fall Festival Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. The event will feature a hayride, carnival games, kickball and more.

The event is free to the public and all are welcome.

For more information contact Tia Stewart at: 405-600-8764 or Jolene at: 405-683-1824. The church is located three miles west of Holdenville off of old Oklahoma State Highway 270.

## NATIVE MADE ARTS FESTIVAL SET FOR NOV. 1-2

JENKS, Okla. — The 2013 Native Made Arts Festival is set for 3-8 p.m., Nov. 1-2 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Riverwalk in Jenks. The event will feature art music and food for the whole family.

For more information call the Mvskoke Nation Business Enterprise at: 918-752-3150 or email the MCN Department of Tourism and Recreation at: tourism@mcn-nsn.gov.

## TARYOLE FAMILY REUNION SET FOR NOV. 2

NUYAKA, Okla. — A family reunion for the descendents of Prince Taryole is set for Nov. 2 at the home of Boy Gibson starting at 12 p.m.

Please bring at pot-luck dish and/or beverage and a bingo prize. For more information please contact Brandi Taryole at: 918-946-6548.

## DAVIS CHAPEL REVIVAL SET FOR NOV. 3-5

COWETA, Okla. — A revival is set for Nov. 3-5 at Davis Chapel in Coweta.

Rev. Bernadine Dowdy will be speaking Nov. 3, Rev. David Little Nov. 4 and Ben Ewing Nov. 5. Refreshments will be served nightly. For more information call Paul Tecumseh at: 918-270-0231.

## NATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS EVENT SET FOR NOV. 16

TULSA, Okla. — The twelfth annual Native Flair Native American Arts and Crafts Event is set for 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 16 at Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church.

The event will feature a variety of work from local Native American artists and a traditional food sale.

For more information call: 918-834-1956 or 918-230-3181.

## LEWIS-MARSHALL REUNION SET FOR NOV. 30

WETUMKA, Okla. — A Lewis and Mandy Marshall family reunion is set for Nov. 30 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Wetumka Community and Adult Center.

Family members are encouraged to submit their favorite cooking recipes so cookbooks can be made before the reunion.

Bring covered dish, desert and door prize for adults and children of all ages. T-shirts will be for sale.

For information contact Lydia Fish at: 405-629-5228.

## GIC HOSTING BLUES JAM SESSION AND WORKSHOP

GLENPOOL, Okla. — The Glenpool Indian Community is hosting a blues jam session and workshop every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. through the end of November at the GIC Community Center located next to the smoke shop off of U.S. Highway 75. The sessions are from 7-9 p.m. with the beginner session beginning at 7 p.m. and the intermediate at 8 p.m. For more information call: 918-855-0978.

## 2013 MCN DOH Mobile Flu Clinic Schedule

MCN DOH/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health will be providing flu immunizations to Native American citizens within the MCN boundaries beginning in October. DOH has set the following dates and locations for immunizations:

October
Oct. 15 - Koweta Indian Health Center 9-11 a.m.
Koweta Community Center 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
MCN Casino Muscogee 2-4 p.m.
Oct. 16 - NCAI Tulsa Race Day 9-11 a.m.
Sapulpa Clinic 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Oct. 17 - Sapulpa Indian Community 12-2 p.m.
Oct. 21 - River Spirit Casino 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. 1:30-4 p.m.
Oct. 22 - Checotah Casino 9-11 a.m.
Eufaula Clinic/Casino/Community 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Oct. 23 - Cromwell Indian Community 9-11 a.m.
Oct. 24 - Dustin Indian Community 9-11 a.m.
Oct. 28 - Duck Creek Indian Community 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
Duck Creek Casino 1-3 p.m.
Oct. 29 - MCN Okemah Casino 9-11 a.m.
Creek Nation Community Hospital 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Oct. 30 - Dewar Elderly Nutrition Center 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
November
Nov. 5 - Wetumka Indian Community 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Nov. 6 - Weleetka Indian Community 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Nov. 12 - MCN Holdenville Casino 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

## MCN SRO October schedule

MCN SRO/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of October.

Oct. 15 - Tax Commission 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Lunch - 11-11:30 a.m.
Oct. 16 - National Council 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Employment and Training Okmulgee all day
Oct. 22 - Tax Commission 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Lunch - 11-11:30 a.m.
Oct. 23 - National Council 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Employment and Training Okmulgee all day
Oct. 25 - Women Infants and Children 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the clinic
Oct. 29 - Tax Commission 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Lunch - 11-11:30 a.m.
Oct. 30 - National Council 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Employment and Training Okmulgee all day
-Employment & Training 405-452-1155 -Housing 405-452-1106 -National Council 405-452-1156 -Reintegration (appointment only) 1-800-259-1056 -Tribal TANF (appointment only) 1-800-483-1979 or 918-732-7985 -WIC 2nd & 4th Friday 405-452-1300
MCN SRO: 405-452-1100

## MCN responds to federal government shutdown

MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE, Okla. – In light of the September 30 government shutdown, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has made preparations to continue uninterrupted tribal services.

The shutdown will not have an immediate or negative impact on tribal services or to any tribal citizens.

In the event that the shutdown should last more than 30 days, then there may be implications that will require adjustments to be made.

Principal Chief George Tiger said that the tribe had taken prior precautionary measures to ensure the welfare of its citizens, with the support of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council.

“The planning process for our budgets has allowed us to be able to operate in a timely manner,” Tiger said. “I would encourage Congress to exercise bipartisan cooperation to pass the federal budget, which affects the entire nation.”

Tiger said the thoughts of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation people are with everyone who was furloughed from their federal employment as a result.

“We are positive that this is going to be a short-term situation,” Tiger said.

## Operation Christmas Child collection week set for Nov. 18-25

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham, that demonstrates God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with local churches worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.

National Collection Week is Nov. 18-25 and the Relay Center in Okmulgee is located at Town and Country Christian Church, 1160 E 36th, Okmulgee, OK 74447. The website will show the five closest relay centers: [www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/).

The Okmulgee hours are:  
Nov. 18 - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Nov. 19 - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Nov. 20 - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Nov. 21 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Nov. 22 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Nov. 23 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Nov. 24 1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
Nov. 25 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

A packing party is set for 1 p.m., Nov. 9 at the Okmulgee County Fairgrounds. For more information contact Samaritan's Purse at 828-262-1980.

## Kerr Center to hold courses on farming, ranching

MFSI/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative is beginning the third year of a partnership with the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture for the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program. The training will be offered not only at the MFSI offices in Okmulgee but the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Poteau, Okla.

The goals of the program are to teach attendees to develop successful agricultural enterprises, operate financially viable farms/ranches and be good stewards of the land.

Registration is currently open for the program and will continue until Nov. 15. Scholarship recipients will be notified Dec. 15.

Those interested in registering for the program can learn more at: [www.kerrcenter.com/beginning-farmers/index..html](http://www.kerrcenter.com/beginning-farmers/index..html). There is no fee for the program.

Participants may choose to follow either a livestock or horticulture curriculum track. Business planning instruction will be a component of both tracks. This component will cover: goal setting, marketing, operations, human resources and finances.

All classes will be held on Saturday. Training will be held at the Kerr Center in Poteau, OK and the MFSI offices in Okmulgee, OK. This year's program will include both horticulture and livestock at both locations.

For more information call Hannah at the Kerr Center: 918-647-9123 or June Marshall and Lynn Duke at MFSI: 918-756-5915.



# OBITUARIES

## CLAYTON BUCKLEY

OKEMAH, Okla. — Clayton Buckley was born July 27, 1951 to Harvey Buckley and Lindy Barnett Buckley and passed from this life Oct. 3, 2013 at the Creek Nation Hospital in Okemah at the age of 61.

Clayton was raised in Wetumka, Okla., and attended Wetumka School. As a young man, he entered the U.S. Marine Corps and honorably served his country during the Vietnam conflict. Following his discharge he returned to Wetumka. He later attended Okmulgee Tech and studied to become a licensed electrician. He had worked the pasts, several years in maintenance at the Creek Nation Hospital.

He was a long time member of the Sand Creek Baptist Church where he had served as Sunday school director and discipleship training director. He loved being outdoors and enjoyed fishing and hunting. But, his greatest enjoyment was the time he spent with his grandchildren and other family members.

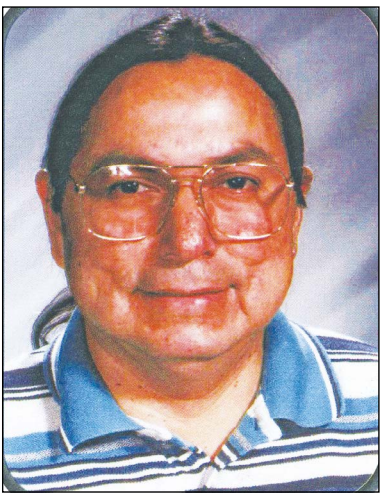
He was preceded in death by: his parents, brothers Clifford Buckley and George Barnett and a sister Margaret Ann Tiger.

Survivors include two children, Clayton Ryan Buckley of Wetumka and Elizabeth

Peterson of Tulsa; a sister Mahalia Harjo and husband Roman of Okmulgee; 5 grandchildren, along with several nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held Oct. 7 at the Sand Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Woody Fields officiating who was assisted by Rev. Harry Anderson as well as pastor and Rev. J.B. Fish. Interment will be in the Sand Creek Church Cemetery under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home of Wetumka.

## ALAN LIGHTNING



MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Zachariah ‘Zach’ Alan Lightning, Ponca name, Ni Aki BoN Na (meaning ‘run towards the water’), longtime resident of Muskogee, passed away Aug. 14, 2013 at his home at the age of 58.

Zach was born Sept. 17, 1954 in Pawnee, Okla., to Stanley George Smith, Sr. and Jeanette Louise Mitchell-Smith.

Zach attended Muskogee Public Schools and graduated with the class of 1972.

After his graduation from high school, he proudly served his country by joining the U.S. Marines Corp. On Jan. 25, 1981, Zach married the love of his life, Peggy Ann Bowen in Ponca City, Okla.

They made their home in Muskogee for many years. Zach’s occupation most of his life was a boilermaker.

He was employed with Union Public Schools and Muskogee Emergency Medical Services. On May 8, 1999, Zach graduated from Northeastern State University with a Bachelor’s Degree of

Science and Education. He was a faithful member of Church 4:18.

Zachariah was preceded in death by: his grandmother Alice Smith, grandfather George Smith, father Stanley Smith, niece Priscilla Thunder, brother David Smith and his maternal grandparents, Mae and James Mitchell.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Lightning of the home, daughters Waleeska Riding-In, Lizzie and Lillie Lightning, granddaughter Aaliyska Knifechief, great-granddaughters Brooke Bryant, Eloise and Mirabel Duvall, mother Jeanette Smith, sisters Shawn Long and Susan Kieger, brothers Stanley Smith Jr. and Sheldon Smith and many other members of the family.

## FLOYD OSBORNE JR.



OKEMAH, Okla. — Floyd Marvin Osborne Jr., a resident of Eufaula, Okla., passed away Oct.14, 2012 in Okemah at the age of 28. “Junior” was born Jan. 5, 1984 in Okmulgee to Floyd Marvin Osborne, Sr. and Mary Christine Hill.

Junior grew up in Sasakwa, Okla., and attended elementary school there. After several years there, he moved to Eufaula. He graduated from Eufaula High School in 2003, where he was an active member of the high school football and basketball teams. Junior was a member of the Okfuskee Indian Baptist Church in Eufaula. He remained an active supporter of the Eufaula Ironheads and supported them with great loyalty. He was also an avid Oklahoma State University Cowboys fan.

Junior was preceded in death by his sister, Harriet Lindsey and his grandparents, Tony and Irene Hill and Jeff and Medalia Osborne.

He is survived by: mother, Mary Lindsey of Okmulgee; his father, Floyd Osborne, Sr. of Sasakwa; a daughter, MyKah Osborne of Eufaula; four brothers, Mose Lindsey of Okmulgee, Sam Osborne of Okmulgee, Robert Mitchell of McAlester, and Marshall Osborne of Atoka; by four sisters, Sandy Lindsey of Okmulgee, Becky Lindsey of Okmulgee, and Tonya Osborne of Holdenville, and Lawana Osborne of Tulsa; four nieces and six nephews; two aunts, Mallie Hill of Okmulgee and Wanda Hill of Okemah; four uncles, Stoney Hill and wife Ruby of Okemah, Toby Hill of Okemah, Dewey Hill of Lamar, and Bill Hill and wife Della of Okemah; by cousins Tonie Hill and Sonja Hill of Muskogee and other extended family and many good friends.

A funeral service was held Oct. 18 at Greenleaf Baptist Church in Okemah, Okla., with Rev. Houston Tiger, Rev. Jempsey Harjo and Joe Lowe officiating. Interment will followed immediately at the Hill Family Cemetery under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service of Henryetta, Okla.

## ANTHONY SCOTT

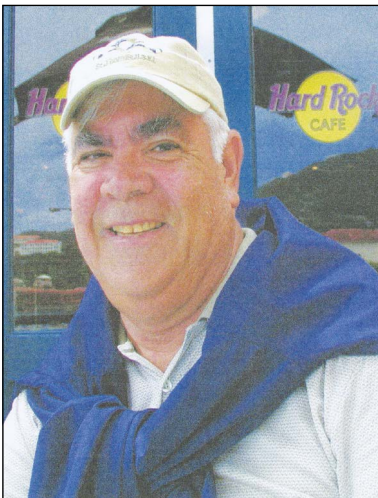


OKMULGEE, Okla. — Anthony George Scott was born May 28, 1965 and passed away Sept. 8, 2013.

He is survived by: ex-wife Michelle Tushka Scott of Broken Bow, Okla.; sons, Tristan Scott of the home, Drew and Whitney Scott of Tahlequah, Okla., Lee Mitchell Scott of the home; daughters, Shelby and Melinia of Broken Bow, Okla.; three grandsons and sisters; Sallie Wise of Okmulgee, Okla., Minnie Wauqua of Holdenville, Okla., Ester Factor of Tahlequah, Okla., and one brother, Chris Mitchell of Ponca City, Okla.

He was preceded in death by: mother, Mabel Scott; grandparents Sam and Mandy Scott and one son.

## SAMMY THOMAS



BULLHEAD CITY, Ariz. — Sammy Ray Thomas, 67, son of Adam and Myrtle Ina Edwards Thomas, was born Oct. 11, 1945 in Okmulgee, Okla.

He passed quietly Aug. 15, 2013 at his home in Bullhead City with his wife Toni at his side. He was the youngest of seven children. After graduation from high school, Sammy joined the U.S. Coast Guard where he served four years during the Vietnam War. Immediately following his tour of duty with the U.S. Coast Guard, he became a licensed Engineering Contractor involved in constructing many roads, bridges, airport runways and mass grading projects throughout California, Arizona and Nevada. Under his direction, his company, Coast Grading Company Inc. successfully bid for and completed many projects for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. At one time Sammy, through his company, provided employment for more Indians than any other contractor in California.

The United Indian Development Association named him ‘Contractor of the Year’

After retirement, he and Toni moved from San Diego, Calif., to Arizona and became comfortable world travelers, enjoying the food and customs from many nations all over the world.

He was also and avid booster and enjoyed the companionship of his six beloved Rhodesian Ridgebacks... especially Sally.

There will not be a day that passes that he will not be remembered and cherished for his generosity, love and kindness by

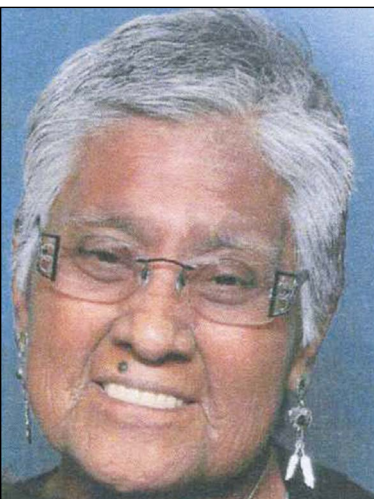
those who knew and loved him.

At his request, there will be no services held. His wish was to be interned at Mont Meta Cemetery in San Benito, Texas.

He was preceded in death by: both parents, oldest brother Jinkie Thomas and sisters Lorene Whitehorn and Lucille Roberts.

He is survived by: brother Adam George Thomas, sister Anna Marie Lowe, children Frank Adam Thomas (Nichole), Stefanie LeAnn Richard (Toby) and Samantha Wendy Thomas, devoted companion and wife of 35 years, Toni Thomas, stepson Christopher Todd Asbell (Rochell), grandchildren Taylor, Victoria and Josiah Thomas, Trinidad, Sydney and Melody Richard and Macie and Mason Asbell along with a host of nieces and nephews.

## LENA MAE TIGER



SAPULPA, Okla. — Lena Mae Tiger, 73, of Sapulpa went to be with her Lord and Savior Sept. 8, 2013 with her family by her side at Saint Francis Hospital.

She was born May 17, 1940 in Wetumka, Okla., to Nettie Solomon and Jacob Josie. She attended Eufaula Boarding School and graduated from Central High in Tulsa. She loved going to church, her cultural ways, sewing and spending time with her grandchildren. She was also known for her sour cornbread. Everyone called her Grandma. Her cousin Nellie was with her all the time while she was in the hospital until her death. On a Saturday evening she was talking Creek and said she was ready to go home and she was tired. So Sunday night, she passed on.

She would always ask about the little one Keldon (Biggen) or Cowboy. He walked in her room and said "Moma Lena, I'm here; wake up."

She was preceded in death by: mother and stepfather Nettie and Bill Deo, brothers; Lawrence Josie and Wallace Deo, son; George Tiger and three grandsons. She is survived by: daughter Lucy Tiger of the home, sons; James Tiger and wife Mary of Glenpool, Hully Tiger and wife Michelle of Sapulpa, Clarence Tiger Jr. of Sapulpa, sister Josephine Francis and husband Robert of Eufaula, step-brother Bill Deo, Jr. of Henryetta, eight grandchildren, five great grandchildren and eight nephews.

A Funeral Service was held Sept. 14 at Welgukee Indian Baptist Church in Hanna, Okla. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, 1208 S Main in Sapulpa.

We would like to say thank you to these people in the death of a mother, grandmother, aunt, and sister: Muskogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse, who escorted us to the church and the cemetery, St. Francis Hospital, Smith Funeral Home, the pastors, Welgukee Indian Baptist Church for letting us use the church. Thank you for sending food, flowers, cards, visiting and the phone

calls. Thank you for your help – Lena Tiger family.

## ROBERT WASHINGTON SR.



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Rev. Robert Doyle Washington Sr., a resident of Okmulgee, died Aug. 31, 2013 at his home at the age of 75. He was born in Henryetta, Okla., Aug. 8, 1938 to Thomas and Martha Washington.

He began his deacon work on Nov. 27, 1982 and his ministry work on May 12, 1984 at Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church, where he went on to pastor there for the next two decades. Most recently, he was pastor at Artussee Indian Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by: brothers Bill Washington and Solomon Lee, sister LuAnn Washington and daughter LaDonna Ann Washington.

He is survived by: wife Irene Washington, sons Vincent Jerome Washington and Robert Doyle Washington Jr. and spouse Diane Beasley, daughters Annette Washington and spouse Bobby Marshall and Linette Factor and spouse Brian Factor, grandsons Hunter Yvhv Washington, Thunder Fuswv Washington and Aidan Factor, sisters Darlene Bucker and Stella Washington along with adopted grandsons Steven Neil Rabbbit, Blake Aaron Johnson and Tyler Austin Johnson. Robert and Irene had been happily married for 47 years.

Funeral Services were Sept. 6 at Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee with Joe Grayson officiating. Burial followed at the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church Cemetery in Okmulgee.

Robert and Irene had been happily married for 47 years. Robert had been well and blessed with his health until the age of 74 when he had a heart attack, five bypasses and several mini-strokes.

Honorary pallbearers are Gary Dunn, Jim Barley, Barton Looney, Jerry Sumka, Johnnie Micco, Steve Randall, Roley Frye, Amos Rabbit, Jimmy Hicks and Rusty Powell. Pallbearers are Brian Factor, Bobby Marshall, Marcy and Dion Washington and Mac and Gerald Rabbit.

Friends may send their condolences to [www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com](http://www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com)

## THANK YOU

I would like to say thank you to the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Arbor Care program and Dustin Cloud. Moore Cemetery in Stidham had three trees dropping limbs on the graves and tombstones.

I called Dustin and explained our problem. He sent a crew known as the climb crew: Preston Edmonton, James Williams, Dewey House and Matt Chamberlin.

They did a very professional job, not only with their equipment but their safety equipment. As a veteran, I am very proud of these young men.

– Mvto, Bill Nixon



2013 MCN NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

GENERAL ELECTION: NOV. 2

Sam Alexander

National Council - Tulsa District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Eco (Deer)  
**Tribal Town:** Thlopthlocco Tribal Town  
**Church:** Montesoma Indian Baptist Church  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Thlopthlocco

**Education/Experience:** Graduated from North-eastern State College in 1969, graduate course hours at University of Oklahoma. Certified Public Accountant with 40 years in public accounting; owner of a small CPA practice in Wagoner. 15 years tribal experience including confirmed Tax Commissioner during tobacco compact litigation, Gaming Operations Authority Board Chair when bingo halls converted to casinos and completing eighth year on the National Council.

**Platform:** Serving as speaker of the National Council has been the crowning achievement of 20 years in this government. Before 2012 the tribal Nation was dysfunctional and mired in internal strife. The 2011 elections brought change necessary to restore communications between the branches of government and appropriate adjustments were made. The goal is to continue developing strong working relationships from within. Commercial and governmental interest has been created in Tulsa and Washington, D.C., where none existed previously. Legislators are invited to the principal chief’s cabinet meetings, and the judicial branch appears to be on the mend. Legislators routinely communicate with tribal employees when, in the past, such conversations were prohibited. Acquiring real estate like River Walk Crossing Shopping Center in three business days demonstrates working together efficiently. Establishing a lobbying presence in Washington, D.C. was long overdue. These winds of change restore life and establish a fresh confidence in the people.

Mitch Jack

National Council - Okfuskee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Konovlke (Skunk)  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Alvpamv Mososwa (Alabama)

**Experience:** Dustin High School, College of the Muscogee Nation

**Platform:** I am dedicated to the care and responsibility to all generations of the Mvskoke people. Living in two worlds allows me to see the different needs of traditional & non-traditional citizens of the tribe. Being bilingual allows me the opportunity to communicate with our elders. If elected as your representative, I would like to focus on economic growth and development, health care, elder and youth outreach, tribal youth council for our children, etc. I feel that this is a full-time job and will be solely focused on working with and listening to the concerns of the Mvskoke people. I value everyone's input to strengthen our Nation. MVTO!

Pearl Chalakee-Thomas

National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Cheyaha Tribal Town  
**Church:** Honey Creek Indian Methodist Church  
**Family:** She and her late husband, Velvin (Pod) Thomas are the parents of Randy Thomas and wife Angela and Patricia and her husband Brian Kilian. They have one granddaughter, Jennifer Kilian and one grandson, Andrew Thomas, a great-granddaughter, Alee Lynn Thomas and a great grandson, Levi Dean Thomas.  
Her parents are the late Ruben and Peggy (Sunny) Chalakee. Her grandparents were the late Thomas and Mulsie Chalakee and Walter and Ellen (Barnett) Sunny.

**Education/Experience:** She attended Rocky Hill Elementary and graduated from Nuyaka High School in 1960. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Northeastern State University. She retired from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation after 18 years of experience working in different programs of the tribe. During my journey as your representative, I have met so many good citizens of all ages across the great Muscogee Nation. I served on the Community Services & Cultural Committee the first two years and on the Health, Education and Welfare Committee these past two years. The current administration and the National Council have vigorously worked together to provide better services in the area of elderly housing, economic development, social services and health care for our people. There is still a need for jobs for our people, adequate housing for our elderly and other eligible citizens. The only promise that I made to you four years ago was that I would represent you to the very best of my ability and I feel I have done that and will continue to do so. MVTO!

Lucian Tiger

National Council - Tulsa District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Wind

**Education/Experience:** I am a graduate of Kellyville High School. I also attended Connors State College as well as Oklahoma State University.  
**Family:** I am the son of Lucian (Sonny) Tiger II, grandson of Jo Ella Tiger and Lucian Tiger, the great grandson of Lucinda (Allen) Tiger-Johnson and Porter Tiger.

**Platform:** I believe that in order for our Nation to continue moving forward we must project better returns on our investments and resources. Our Nation is growing through economic development. However, I believe that we also need to invest more into the programs that are already in place for our citizens. We are a great Nation with great people and I believe that if we all work together and hold each other accountable as representatives anything is possible. If elected as your councilman I will make our Nation and our people my priority.  
MVTO

Lena Wind

National Council - Okfuskee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Alabama/Quassarte  
**Church:** New Beginnings, Henryetta - Home Church: High Springs, Okemah

**Education/Experience:** 10 years with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, 10 years as a public school teacher, B.S.E.D. from Northeastern State University, M.A.E.D Oklahoma City University, 15 years administration of tribal programs including: Indian Child Welfare (Program Director, Foster Care/Adoption), Child Care Director, Director of Social Services (LIHEAP, Safe & Stable Families), JOM program Liaison

**Platform:** Greetings Muscogee Citizens, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve you for over nine years. I give my God the Creator all the glory for everything accomplished during this time of service! I’ve been and will continue to be a strong voice in support of citizen’s needs, communities, educational endeavors and economic development! It’s amazing to see ideas and plans that I have been involved in become a reality, such as the upcoming 122,000 sq. ft. hospital to be built in Okemah, community buildings (Okemah, Okfuskee) and the Dental Clinic in Okemah, which I sponsored legislatively. I am very proud of the cooperative effort that the current administration and legislative branch has exhibited, this cooperation has provided for more expedient and better service to our citizens! I believe the Lord has much more work for me to do. I ask for your vote! For more info: [www.reelectlenawind.com](http://www.reelectlenawind.com). God’s Blessings To You! MVTO, Lena Lee Wind

James Jennings

National Council - Okmulgee District

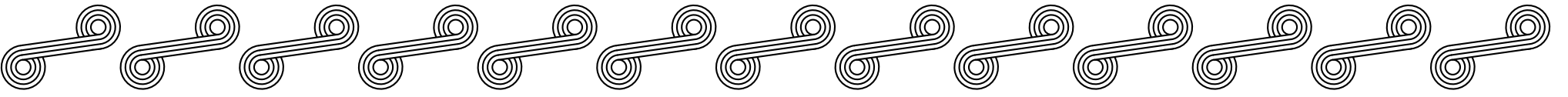
**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka  
**Church:** Second Baptist Church, Okmulgee  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka  
**Family:** I am one-half Creek, son of the late Pearline Day, Married to wife, Joyce for 45 years. We have three sons and five grandchildren. Resident of Okmulgee for 35 years.

**Education:** Graduate from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. U.S. Army Veteran- Military policeman from 1967-1970 with an honorable discharge. Recently retired from Southern Millwork after 42 years employment as a master cabinetmaker. National Council from 2006-2011. Served on Human Development Committee, Fact-finding Committee, Internal Affairs Committee, ExAffico Board of Regents of the College of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Missed one meeting during this period of service to the Nation.

**Platform:** 1. Educational opportunities: Higher Education, Vo-Tech, on the job training. 2. Seniors: health issues, housing, special needs. 3. Preserve our language and culture, protect our sovereignty. 4. Positive atmosphere so the Nation can move forward as a whole.

Official Sept. 21, 2013 Election Primary results			
Proposed Constitutional Amendments		MCN National Council Seat B	
Two-thirds majority vote required to pass		50 percent majority required to win without a run off	
NCA 13-031: This proposition asked, "Should one additional justice (judge) be added to the MCN Supreme Court?" — <b>Yes: 1690 - 71.79</b> — <b>No: 664 - 28.21 percent (passed)</b>		<b>Creek District:</b> Francis Ann Morgan: 738 - 31.71 percent Dode Ann Barnett 1589 - 68.29 percent	
NCA 13-042: The proposition asks, "Shall eligible voters (resident and absentee) vote for the National Council representative solely in their own district?" If passed, eligible voting citizens will vote for the representatives solely in their own district. Yes: 1565 - 65.67 percent — <b>No: 818 - 34.33 percent (failed)</b> <b>Voting will remain at-large.</b>		<b>Muskogee District:</b> Joyce C. Deer: 1639 - 70.01 percent Eddie LaGrone: 702 - 29.99 percent	
		<b>Tulsa District:</b> Samuel Scott Alexander: 587 - 24.73 percent Rodney Josie: 298 - 12.55 percent Lucian A. Tiger III: 949 - 39.97 percent Carol McHenry Williams: 540 - 22.75 percent	
		<b>Okmulgee District:</b> Lizanne Holata: 355 - 14.89 percent James Dwight Jennings: 866 - 36.33 percent Keeper James Johnson Sr.: 394 - 16.53 percent Pearl Thomas: 538 - 22.57 percent Virginia Ann Thomas: 231 - 9.69 percent	
		<b>McIntosh District:</b> Wilson Bear: 578 - 24.51 percent Adam Jones III: 1242 - 52.67 percent Tommy Pickering: 538 - 22.82 percent	
		<b>Okfuskee District:</b> Mitch Jack: 809 - 34.35 percent Celesta Johnson: 667 - 28.32 percent Lena Lee Wind: 879 - 37.32 percent	
		<b>Tukvpytce District:</b> Martha Jane Givens: 805 - 34.02 percent Thomas L. Yahola: 1561 - 65.98 percent	





# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## Groundbreaking held for \$335 million River Spirit expansion

**NOV. 1, 2013**  
**VOL. 43, ISSUE 21**  
**"EHOLE"**  
**FROST MONTH**



### MCN 'ups the ante' for final Phase II plans

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA, Okla. — Updated plans for the new Muscogee (Creek) Nation River Spirit Phase II Development will add another four stories and more amenities to the original design for the Margaritaville themed expansion, but at a higher cost.

Tribal officials, Margaritaville executives and City of Tulsa government leaders ceremonially turned shovels full of Arkansas River sand Oct. 15 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa to launch the second part of the \$335 million project, originally priced at \$250 million.

The two-year project now includes a 26-story hotel tower, 2,500-seat theater, expanded gaming floor, Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville Restaurant, along with a new entrance and parking structure.

According to RSC General Manager Jerry Floyd, the modified plans are intended to make the resort more upscale compared to the design announced six months



MNN/Amanda Rutland

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Oct. 15 at the River Spirit Event Center for Phase II of the \$335 million River Spirit Casino expansion project, which includes a 26-story luxury hotel featuring Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville Restaurant and Casino.

ago.

"We have reduced the number of rooms, but we opted to have larger, more luxurious rooms as opposed to just have a large number of run-of-the-mill hotel rooms that you find in a lot of properties," he said.

Floyd added that the new design would be advantageous from a visibility standpoint.

"Since we were reworking the footprint, it gave us the opportunity to increase the height and increase the presence. It will be the biggest billboard in the City

of Tulsa — 26 stories with our logo on it."

In a press release, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger called the event, 'historic' adding that it made the MCN a player in

**EXPANSION - 3**

## 2013 Mvskoke Hall of Fame nominees honored

### Gala held at River Spirit Event Center

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The second annual Mvskoke Hall of Fame Gala, hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department, was held Oct. 12 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa.

The red carpet theme was rolled out for attendees, highlighting the 2013 inductees and raising funds for the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program and Mvskoke Nation Festival.

Dr. Pete Coser, 2010 Hall of Fame inductee and director of the MCN Scholarship Foundation, presented information on the Scholarship Foundation and the opportunities the program provides.

"Basically we're about scholarships, community initiatives and about research initiatives that support the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,"



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Mekko George Thompson of Hickory Ceremonial Ground spoke Oct. 12 during the Mvskoke Hall of Fame. Thompson was one of the 2013 Hall of Fame inductees.

Coser said.

2013 Hall of Fame inductees included Jack Jacobs, Dr. Phyllis Fife and Mekko George Thompson.

"The Mvskoke Hall of Fame requires that the individual must have brought recognition to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or have outstanding

contribution to the quality of life and development," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said.

Jacobs, a full blood Muscogee (Creek), was born in Holdenville, Okla., and played quarterback for the University of Oklahoma football team and holds many football re-

ords. Jacobs was drafted into the National Football League and also played, scouted and coached for the Canadian Football League.

The award was presented posthumously. Jacobs passed away in 1974.

**GALA - 3**

### 70th Annual NCAI Convention held in Tulsa

#### Mascots, Baby Veronica and other Native issues discussed

Kyla McKown/Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — A parade of 270 tribes and villages across the U.S. marched to the beat of the Osage Nation Drum Group Oct. 14, to kick off the 70th National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention and Marketplace Oct. 13-18 at the Cox Business Center in Tulsa.

The Marketplace showcased Native American art and provided information for Native American programs and services throughout the week.

**Day 1: Oct. 13**

The first day featured numerous events concerning Native American issues including a Native Women Conference Forum. The Native Women Forum featured a planning session, which included the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women.

The meeting focused on updates regarding the VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2013 and the pilot project for the legislation.

Another portion of the forum, the Native Women's Caucus explored the perspective and roles of Native women and their families in tribal committees and the issues they face.

Training was also provided regarding Affordable Care Act implementation. The training entitled, Large Tribal Employer Responsibility in 2015, provided Native Americans with a better understanding of ACA and specific information pertaining to large companies.

**Day 2: Oct. 14**

The second day highlighted the cultural aspects from different tribes with the Color Guard Honor Song. Each tribe was represented by their

**NCAI - 2**





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GARY FIFE

REPORTER

KYLA MCKOWN

REPORTER

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FEATURE WRITER

GERALD WOFFORD

CIRCULATION

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NCAI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

flags, which were displayed throughout the week.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger led the invocation for the event.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin was in attendance to welcome the tribes to Tulsa for the convention. She also praised the Oklahoma tribes for their economic impact on the state.

"Oklahoma tribes employ 53,700 Oklahomans with direct payroll contribution of \$1.5 billion to Oklahoma residents," Fallin said. "... I also appreciate what our tribes do with our local communities. Tribes gave approximately \$792 million to Oklahoma organizations."

A press conference was also held for the event with questions answered by NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Pata. Pata stated that because of the government shutdown, the federal officials scheduled for the conference were unable to attend.

"We urge Congress to come together with consensus and common sense; just like tribal leaders find solutions and create opportunities," Pata said.

During the general assembly, a session was held, which discussed the October 2013 NCAI report regarding the mascot issue.

Aaron Payment, Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, addressed the use of racial mascots and their psychological effects on Native American youth.

"The American Psychological Association did a study on the mascot issue," Payment said. "Native Americans have the highest drop out rate out of any racial group. It's the only one subjected to this treatment. Obviously there is a relation there."

Day 3: Oct. 15

The third day of the conference, NCAI held a ceremony honoring Dusten Brown for fighting for his daughter in the 'Baby Veronica' adoption case and Native American rights regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The day also featured discussions and information regarding specific Native American regions. Topics included: Fishing, economic development, medicine and tribal constitution reform.

Day 4: Oct. 16

The fourth day of the convention featured a preparation meeting for the 5th Annual White House Tribal Nation Summit that will be held Nov. 13. The Council focuses on five priorities, which include: Promoting economic development, supporting greater access and control over healthcare, improving effectiveness of tribal justice systems, expanding educational opportunities for Native American youth and protecting and supporting the management of Native lands, environments and natural resources.

Aside from the NCAI convention, George Tiger for NCAI President campaign sponsored a symposium on sacred places entitled Spirit Fire.



MNN/Gary Fife

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger addressed assembled delegates during the opening ceremonies at the National Congress of American Indians 70th Annual Convention and Marketplace Oct. 13-18 at the Cox Business Center in Tulsa.

The symposium and art exhibit on the protection of ancestors and sacred places, was held at the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame in Tulsa.

"One of the things that we are here to speak of this afternoon is very important to us as Indian people; sacred rights, our tradition, our culture, things that have been handed down for generations," Tiger said.

Day 5: Oct. 17

The NCAI Board Administrative Office elections took place during the fifth day of the convention. Nominees

During his campaign speech, Cladoosby focused on tribal sovereignty, including social issues facing Native Americans such as: epidemic diseases, alcohol abuse, diabetes, high dropout rates and land rights.

"They don't understand; they can't," Cladoosby said. "So we must show them what sovereignty means. Show the world around us while we're sovereign together. When Indian people stand together in unity of sovereignty together, NCAI will never, never stop showing the world what sovereignty means."

The terms for the positions

**"WE COME TOGETHER AT THE END WITH CONSENSUS. WE URGE CONGRESS TO COME TOGETHER WITH CONSENSUS AND COMMON SENSE; JUST LIKE TRIBAL LEADERS FIND SOLUTIONS AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES."**

**= NCAI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JACQUELINE PATA**

were able to speak up to five minutes regarding their platforms. Tiger was one of the candidates running to replace former two-term NCAI President Jefferson Keel.

"I know we're all very distinct tribal nations but I think tribes nationwide have similar issues and concerns as protecting our rights to tribal sovereignty and providing services to our citizens," Tiger said. "As tribal leaders and as citizens, we all strive to preserve our culture and traditional ways while at the same time develop new tools to grow economic developments."

The new officers elected during the convention were NCAI: President Brian Cladoosby, of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; First President Michael Finley, Chairman of Colville Tribes; Recording Secretary Robert Shepard, of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe and Treasurer Dennis Welsh Jr., Tribal Council Member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

are two years.

After the election, the NCAI committees gave update reports.

During the Education committee update, President of National Indian Education Association Heather Shotton discussed the impact of federal sequestration on Native schooling.

"Sequestration has already limited the success of education programs such as Headstart and Early Headstart," Shotton said. "Reducing Headstart programs by \$414 million Nationally in 2013; with Indian Headstart programs on track to lose more than \$12 million."

Day 6: Oct. 18

During the final day of the convention, the new NCAI officials were sworn in and the colors were retired with a closing prayer.

NCAI 71st Annual Convention will be held in Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 26-31, 2014.

EXPANSION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

economic terms.

"As a Nation, we are proud that this significant investment will fully establish the MCN at the forefront of the leaders in the gaming, entertainment and hospitality industries around the globe."

Once built, he predicted the local annual economic impact to the Tulsa area to be in excess of \$135 million.

Tiger stated that the higher initial investment would pay off eventually.

"It was felt like that we wanted to have something that we can be proud of as Muscogee (Creek) Nation, something that's going to attract the consumers to come."

Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett welcomed the addition to the Tulsa economic community, projecting that the expansion would add several thousand jobs during construction and almost 1000 jobs once completed.

"After that being said, the commitment they made and what we will be seeing in this area will be a perfect example of why we need to grow along the river."

Bartlett said that the City of Tulsa and the MCN have had some preliminary discussions about adding more water to that section of the Arkansas River with the construction of low water dams but so far, such a project has not gone any farther.

Margaritaville Holdings Inc. Chief Executive Officer John Cohan called the venture an 'experience, not just a real estate project.' Each Margaritaville enterprise, he said, is a unique development tailored to the local community.

"We're not a 'cookie-cutter' concept. We believe in blending our version of fun with the version of fun of the local community"

The Phase II plan renderings feature the river next to RSC, full with deep blue water.

When asked how they might make the commonly brown Arkansas River water blue, Floyd laughingly answered, "A lot of food color."

The projected opening date is sometime in early 2015.

GALA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fife earned her Doctorate of Education from the University of Arkansas and has worked in the education field as an instructor and administrator. Since 2003, Fife has served as the director for the Center of Tribal Studies at Northeastern State University.

Fife is also an artist and her work has been featured in national and international publications.

Fife said that she is proud to be inducted into the Mvskoke Hall of Fame.

"This is probably the greatest honor of my lifetime," Fife said.

Thompson is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and has been the Mekko of the Hickory Ceremonial Ground for 40 years. Thompson is a fluent Mvskoke language speaker and is now serving on the MCN Supreme Court.

For his efforts to preserve the original Hickory Ground site in Alabama, Thompson was awarded the MCN Principal Chief's Medal of Honor.

"This is something that I never expected or looked for," Thompson said.



## ITC holds quarterly meeting



MNN/Jessica McBride  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger speaks during the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes quarterly session at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills in Tulsa, Okla.

### Council addresses programs, land issues

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes held a quarterly meeting Oct. 10-11 hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills in Tulsa.

Each ITC member summarized achievements and events within their tribes.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger emphasized MCN economic development with the purchase of George Nigh Rehabilitation Center and the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital in Okmulgee, Okla., and upcoming events such as the Mvskoke Hall of Fame and the ground breaking for the River Spirit Margaritaville expansion project in Tulsa.

Tiger also spoke on the outcome of Resolution 13-28 passed by the ITC July 12 supporting the return of the Muscogee (Creek) Council House artifacts to the MCN.

“I’m pleased to tell you that through the efforts of our museum staff, the National Council in our offices, that all those artifacts that were going to be auctioned off are now back in safe hands of where they should be, the Muscogee (Creek) people,” Tiger said.

The Council passed resolutions to address issues within the community.

Resolution 13-31 established a sub-committee for geographic information systems. The sub-committee will obtain and analyze geographical data and report the information back to the IFC.

Resolution 13-32 requested the reinstatement of the Tribal Work Experience Program. TWEP was a Bureau of Indian

Affairs program that provided eligible participants with on the job training. The program was discontinued without notice to the tribes who administered it.

Resolution 13-33 requested consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on the new produce safety and preventive control rules that were published in January 2013 and the enactment of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Resolution 13-34 asks Congress to pass a new farm bill. ITC states that there has been a negative impact on U.S. Department of Agriculture programs due to a new farm bill not being passed and the government shutdown.

Resolution 13-35 asks Congress to support the feeding program for the Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations. The FDPIR provides food services to eligible participants. ITC recommends changes certain provisions of the program to prevent waste and for Congress to act to ensure the future of the program.

Resolution 13-36 requests the Realty Trust Services Committee to draft amendments concerning the 47 ACT, Indian Land Consolidation Act and the American Indian Probate Reform Act affecting land matters. The resolution states that the acts “selectively exclude the Five Civilized Tribes from managing its own affairs.”

Resolution 13-37 requests \$100 million of the Keepseagle Cy Pres funds to be awarded to a private foundation that is created and managed by the ITC. The funds will be used for new and current agricultural projects. Keepseagle v. Vilsack, a class action lawsuit, alleges that USDA loan programs discriminated against Native Americans. The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma will host the next meeting in January 2014. The date and location have not been announced.

## MCN employees receive NCAIED 40 Under 40 award

### Three citizens receive award for outstanding leadership

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development honored 40 Native Americans under 40 years of age for their leadership roles.

Three recipients were Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees: Director of the MCN Division of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith, College of the Muscogee Nation Dean of Student Affairs Monte Randall and CMN Dean of Academic Affairs Angela Bunner.

These recipients were first nominated by their peers and chosen based on their leadership, initiative and dedication to Indian Country, according to the NCAIED website: [www.ncaied.org](http://www.ncaied.org).

The awards will be presented at the 38th annual Indian Progress in Business Awards Gala Oct. 24 at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino in Chandler, Ariz.

MCN Museum and Cultural Center Assistant Director Justin Giles, was a 40 Under 40 award recipient last year.

“It’s just awesome to see our own group grow and be recognized nationally,” Giles said. “We’re the fourth largest tribe in the country but to have a good group of folks receiving that award; I think shows we have some up and coming leaders that are ready to take on these leadership roles.”

According to Giles, aside from the NCAIED 40 Under

40, the MCN ‘Leaders in Training’ group Enhomattv Semeheckvlke has also been recognizing accomplished tribal members under the age of 40.

Recipients of the NCAIED award receive national recognition along with opportunities for networking.

“It’s just cool to see a lot of younger folks under 40 that are out there in the country doing their good and positive things for their communities and that’s the best way to learn

“My leadership style has evolved from observations of elders, personal interaction with tribal college peers and Native American leaders in the community.”

In the future, she hopes to serve as a diplomat for tribal colleges and that CMN continues to set the standard for tribal higher education.

Randall’s success was facilitated by the Muscogee (Creek) role models he grew up around.

“Around here, I feel spoiled I’ve had such great leadership in my life so I want to promote that with the youth.”

Randall plans to work toward his doctorate and continue on in leadership or administration at CMN.

“I’m happy we have great leadership here,” Randall said. “It definitely shows through all our accomplishments. I’m just fortunate to be a part and be a member of everything. I just want to see the success of the college first.”

Smith credited tribal elders for his success and hopes to give back.

“So elders have always taught me to go get my education then help the tribe and I believe that’s what I’m doing,” Smith said. “And helping to provide better healthcare for our patients and our citizens. I like this role because I like to give back to what individuals gave me; insight, direction and leadership.”

“Because in the Muscogee culture, we are taught to seek out wisdom from our community,” Bunner said.

about what we can do in our own communities,” Giles said.

Giles would like to see recognition of MCN citizens as well as employees.

“It’s something we’ll continue to nominate and get our Muscogee citizens in there not just Muscogee employees,” Giles said. “It’s really anybody that’s out there in a community doing good things.”

Bunner shared her feelings regarding the award.

“I’m humbled and honored that someone would recognize my efforts and contributions for indigenous higher education,” Bunner said.

She believes the values she learn from her culture lead her to achieve this success.

“Because in the Muscogee culture, we are taught to seek out wisdom from our community,” Bunner said.



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## Newtown United Methodist recognized as historic landmark



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
Rev. David Dunson addresses attendees of the Heritage Landmark Celebration Oct. 13 at Newtown Methodist Church in Okmulgee.

### Church honored with UMC Heritage Landmark award

Amanda Rutland/MNN

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Newtown United Methodist Church held the Heritage Landmark Celebration Oct. 12-13, which included speakers presenting the history of the church and a memorial walk to former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief and Newtown founder, Samuel Checote’s grave.

Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr. leader of the Oklahoma Conference of the UMC, presented the Heritage Landmark award Oct. 13 to Newtown. The award was accepted on behalf of the church by current pastor, Rev. David Dunson.

Newtown is one of 46 heritage landmarks recognized by

the UMC General Commission, and is the only one of these landmarks in Oklahoma.

The Commission defines a heritage landmark as, “a building, location or structure specifically related to significant events, developments or personalities in the overall history of the United Methodist Church or its antecedents.”

According to a proclamation by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, Checote founded the church 175 years ago. Checote was one of the first ordained ministers of the MCN.

Checote and members of Newtown petitioned the MCN Council to lift the ban prohibiting the practice of Christianity within the MCN jurisdiction. MCN Chief Roley McIntosh removed the ban in the 1840s.

Melba Eads, a descendant of

Checote, held an integral role in gaining landmark recognition for the church.

“When we did the criteria to become a landmark, we had to write the importance of not only the church and the church life, but to the community,” Eads said.

According to Eads, many historic tribal leaders have played a role in Newtown’s past.

“We have been blessed to have many community minded people. The church has had two chiefs from here. Chief Claude Cox was a great leader not only for the Nation, but a leader here in our church and the conferences as a treasurer,” Eads said.

A proclamation from Tiger was read during the celebration ceremony to announce Oct. 13 as Newtown Methodist Church day for the MCN.

## Creek Council House artifacts return to Okmulgee



MNN/Gary Fife  
Stickball sticks, part of the Creek Council House Artifacts Collection, which was returned to Okmulgee after a deal was made between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Creek Council House Museum Association to stop the auction of the collection through Cowan’s Auctions Inc.

### Museum staff discusses plans for collection

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

JENKS, Okla. — The artifacts collection of the Creek Council House are home in Oklahoma after being mere feet away from the auction block where they were to be sold Sept. 20.

An agreement was announced Aug. 15 between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Creek Council House Museum Association for the MCN to purchase the collection, which contains more than 1,000 items.

Giles also described a personal connection to the artifacts.

“I have relatives’ objects in here. Kenneth Burgess has a painting here. While we were driving up here, I got a call from my mom who said, ‘Keep an eye out for your cousin, Uncle Kenneth’s paintings in there and keep an eye out for it.’ ”

The next steps will be developing a final inventory, prioritizing items that need to be placed in an environmentally controlled setting and then selecting parts of the collection that can be placed in some sort of exhibition for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and the public.

"We'll construct a database,

## Cultural Preservation hosts Muskogean Symposium



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
Dr. Marvin T. Smith, of Valdosta State University, speaks during the Muskogean Symposium Oct. 10, at the Mound Building on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

### Presenters talk about Muscogee life during Mississippian period

Amanda Rutland/MNN

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Department held the Muskogean Symposium Oct. 10-11, at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

Speakers from various colleges throughout the Southeast gave lectures on Muskogean life during the Mississippian period, also known as the mound-building period.

The symposium was the idea of late Cultural Preservation Manager and former MCN Second Chief Alfred Berryhill.

“This is stuff everybody needs to know, so we thought just bring everybody together,” said Odette Freeman, Cultural Preservation Interim Manager.

Freeman hopes that this sharing of information will inspire

others to protect tribal traditions and history, and that those citizens might take up the department’s cause.

“We were hoping that with this information, people would get interested and all of us; we are not going to be here forever. We need people to come behind us and carry on,” she said.

The speakers were chosen based on their contributions in the Muskogean archaeological community. Freeman stated that the speakers were recommended by Cultural Preservation Officer Emman Spain, who uses this type of information to claim tribal remains and funerary objects.

The first day started with an introduction by retired archaeologist Larry Haikey, followed by Dr. Adam King from the University of South Carolina, who spoke about the Mississippian chiefdoms. Other topics included Mvskoke plant uses, Coosa and Creek Spiritual symbology.

Responses from the attendees were positive.

“All the presenters were very educated on what they presented and it came across very well,” Muscogee (Creek) citizen Turner Hunt said.

Hunt was named Mr. Indian OU for the current year, by the American Indian Student Society of the University of Oklahoma.

Pete Coser, Director of the MCN Higher Education Scholarship program, was interested in one subject in particular.

“One of the scholars spoke on Coosa and that interests me because that is our ancestry on my father’s side,” he said.

He was also pleased with the presenters.

“It was a pleasure to hear scholars talk about this and we just don’t have that information,” Coser said.

Cultural Preservation live streamed the event and plans to make it available for viewing in the near future under the Cultural Preservation tab on the MCN tribal website, www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.



MNN/Gary Fife  
Traditional “Kecocekvpe” used for grinding corn and other grains are some of the hundreds of artifacts returned to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Part of the collection was placed in a secure space at the Riverwalk in Jenks, a second part in storage with Tulsa’s Gilcrease Museum and a third remained in a storage facility in Okmulgee.

John Beaver, Director of the MCN Museum and Cultural Center and Assistant Director Justin Giles, travelled to Cincinnati, Ohio to retrieve the collection from Cowan’s Auction Inc.

An inventory was made so they could account for everything. Then items were placed in protective wraps and boxes.

MCN Museum staff members spoke about their experience in retrieving the collection, Oct. 3.

Beaver recounted the emotional jolt he felt while repatriating the collection.

“Personally, it was a very humbling experience to be involved in something like this. Even more so that it has extreme significance to your own people; your own tribe and on some levels; to you personally.”

which will allow research not only at Creek Nation, but citizens who will want to come and learn about that object and we can also put that information online,” Beaver said. “If you can’t come to Tulsa, if you can’t come to Okmulgee to see it or interact with it elements of it or at least significant portions of the collection, that you’ll be able to interact with it or learn about it online.”

The details of the agreement are unavailable as of yet. A spokesperson for the CCHMA had not responded to requests for information at press time. MCN Museum staff members referred requests to MCN Principal Chief George Tiger’s office, but Tiger was also busy with the National Congress of American Indians convention in Tulsa close to press time.

No exact plan or date for any exhibitions has been developed yet. The Museum staff is considering possibilities of a small exhibit for at Riverwalk.



## MCN Office Childcare hosts Culture Day



Gerald Wofford/MNN  
Noel Grayson, Village Supervisor at the Cherokee Heritage Center addresses attendees during the fifth annual Culture Day Oct. 11 at the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

### Attendees enjoy yearly event

Gerald Wofford/Contributor

OKMULGEE, Okla. – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care hosted the fifth annual Culture Day Oct. 11 at the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The free event featured Muscogee (Creek) traditional songs, dance, food and art.

Culture Day once held in the spring, easily drew over 1,000, junior high, and high school students this year.

“We are still working on the actual attendance but Okmulgee Public Schools brought 900 schoolchildren this year,” said Tammy Lewis, MCN Office of Child Care administrator.

For Eufaula Middle School Secretary Mekia Barnes, the event is always something to look forward to.

“They (students) mark it on their calendar every year, they are excited to come. There are so many things our children don’t get to see, the pottery, the clay, the dancing, the songs.”

Alexis, a student of Eufaula, enjoyed the event. “This is pretty cool.” Ledarrien, another Eufaula student shared her favorite events, “I really like the stomp dance and the clay pottery,” said Ledarrien.

Eufaula students Alexis Walker and Ledarrien Perkins agree. “This is pretty cool,” said Walker. “I really like the stomp dance and the clay pottery,” said Perkins.

Louise Taylor, who for the MCN food distribution Center

in Wetumka, Okla., took annual leave to bring her three grandchildren.

“This is my first time being out here,” said Taylor. “I always had to work, now I work for Creek Nation, so I took some annual to come up here, it’s all new to me and it’s exciting, I’m enjoying it.”

David McSpadden accompanied his daughter, Bailey who goes to school at Gypsy.

“It’s a pretty good little deal,” said McSpadden. “I like these brush arbors around, you don’t see too many of them anymore. This is the first time I heard this music and a lot of the food I haven’t seen before. I would come back again next year.”

Barnes agreed. “I really do, it gets better every year.”

## Cultural Preservation protects, promotes tribal history

### Department performs broad array of cultural services

Darren DeLaune/Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Department preserves and protects valued history and cultural resources for future generations, according to MCN tribal website.

“We have a lot of history and we want to do everything possible to preserve it and to help keep it alive. We have to preserve the culture in every aspect,” said Odette Freeman, Cultural Preservation Interim Manager.

The department has several programs. The Cemetery Project, the Cultural Library and Archives and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, which works with the National Historic Preservation and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Acts.

With more than 1,600 volumes of reference materials, the Cultural Library and Archives division helps store records that are dated back as early as 1828. Among these records is the final Dawes Roll for the MCN. The division also

records interviews with tribal elders and transfers documents to microfilm and digital format.

“We have the final Dawes Roll here in our library,” Freeman said. “A lot of people do come here to look up their lineage on the Dawes Roll.”

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office works through NHPA and NAGPRA to ensure that development on culturally significant sites within the origi-

David Proctor said.

The Cemetery Project provides cleaning for the family cemeteries, which have been neglected or abandoned. The project also takes photographs of these cemeteries and uses the Global Positioning System to document their location.

“When old cemeteries are found, we want to do everything to help preserve them,” Freeman said. “We will clean

them up and have it documented in case other families are looking for these cemeteries.”

Freeman also talked about the passing of former Cultural Preservation Manager and MCN Second Chief Alfred Berryhill and the legacy he left the department and the Nation.

“Alfred really was a beloved man,” Freeman said. “Although he was manager here and no longer second chief, he still did everything to help out

people that came and talk to him. He loved helping out people. He loved Creek history.”

The department will be hosting classes in the near future for: can making, shell carving, finger weaving and traditional food cooking classes.

For more information on these classes and the Cultural Preservation Department call: 918-732-7733.



nal tribal territory in the Southeast complies with these pieces of federal legislation.

“Whenever builders use federal funds to construct sites and they come across a site that used to be a settlement or a cemetery, they have to stop with the construction and get a hold of us. Any kind of action that they do, they have to consult with the Indian tribes,” Cultural Specialist

## MCN celebrates 2013 Council Oak Ceremony



Gerald Wofford/MNN  
Muscogee (Creek) citizens Ace Buckner, JoJo Buckley and Raymond Meely conduct the lighting of the fire for the 2013 Council Oak Ceremony Oct. 19 at Creek Nation Council Oak Park in Tulsa, Okla.

### Tulsa Mayor attends yearly cultural event

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

TULSA, Okla. – A cool clear fall afternoon provided the ideal background for the 2013 Council Oak Ceremony held Oct. 19 at Creek Nation Council Oak Park in Tulsa.

The event observes the Locv pokv (pronounced Loca-bocha) people of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and their arrival in Indian Territory in 1836.

The Locv pokv placed ashes from the original homelands in Alabama by a selected Oak Tree near the Arkansas River in the area that would become Tulsa.

In 1992, the park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett was a guest for the ceremonies and praised the significance of the MCN to the city.

“We’ve really enjoyed the great relationship we’ve had with the Nation,” Bartlett said.

He specifically highlighted the Nation’s economic contribu-

tions.

“We like to see stability in our economy. Certainly this tribe as well as other tribes here have contributed so much, but with the decision and the announcement of the River Spirit expansion project; that’s a real commitment,” Bartlett said.

The ceremony included the lighting of the fire by Muscogee (Creek) citizens Raymond Kelly and Ace Buckner.

Buckner says he has taken part in four Council Oak ceremonies and that the yearly event is always special to him.

“I think it means a lot because a lot of our young people don’t realize what our people went through to keep our language and culture and traditions going,” Buckner said.

During the ceremony, Jimmy Deere of Green Leaf Ceremonial Ground gave the traditional call, which Buckner describes as a warrior’s call.

Other speakers at the ceremony included MCN Chief George Tiger, and Sam Proctor of Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground, who gave the dismissal prayer.

## MCN hosts yearly Fall Festival



Darren DeLaune/MNN  
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care hosted the 2013 MCN Fall Festival Oct. 18 on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

### Child Care holds day of fun for youth

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care hosted the 2013 MCN Fall Festival Oct. 18 on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

Children of all ages came out for games, hay rides, pony rides and prizes. Because the event was held close to Halloween, the majority of the children came in their costumes for the event.

Resource and Referral Specialist Alex McCosar spoke about this year’s festival.

“Today we are having our fall festival,” McCosar said. “It is a fun thing that we have yearly for the kids.”

Children from the MCN Head Start Program and all the Child Care programs were in atten-

dance for the festival. Providers that work through the Office of Child Care were invited to bring their children to enjoy the day.

Office of Child Care Manager Barbara O’Neal was happy to see the great turnout their festival had.

“We put this on for the children to come out so they can enjoy something during their fall break,” O’Neal said. “I have been here a little over five years in my position and it has been going on before I was even here. It shows that on a yearly basis we can put this on and know that kids will be having a great time when they come here.”

Other departments throughout the MCN had booths setup to give away toys and candy for the children.

Lunch, candy and giveaway’s were provided by the Office of Child Care.



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## Creek citizen punching his way onto MMA scene

MNN/Darren DeLaune

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Daryl Wilson training for his next fight at Thunderkick Fitness with Thunderkick owner and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Thomas Longacre.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
J.W-M., DOB: 12-31-08 )  
Alleged Deprived Child. )

NOTICE OF HEARING TO: Joseph Martis Williams  
Unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Motion to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 3rd day of January 2014 at 9:00 A.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

DISTRICT COURT  
FILED

Case No. 2013-087-18 PM 3 24  
2014-01-03

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
DONNA DEAYER  
COURT CLERK

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

## Local fighter hopes to make a career in MMA

Darren DeLaune/Reporter

SAPULPA, Okla. — There is a new mixed martial arts fighter hailing out of Sapulpa, 21-year old Daryl ‘The Reaper’ Wilson, who is 9-1 in his young career. His record is 5-0 in MMA and 4-1 in kickboxing.

Wilson has been fighting a little over a year and started training back in 2012.

“I started out training last May and I had my first kick-boxing fight last October,” Wilson said. “After that first fight I had a couple months to rest but since then it seems like I have a fight every other month.”

or any of his fights,” Wilson said. “From what everyone has been telling me, he was a very good fighter.”

When Wilson made the decision to do MMA, he was met with a little resistance from a family member.

“At first, when I was going to start kickboxing my mom did not want me to do it,” laughed Wilson. “She then saw how much effort I put into my training and she is one, if not my biggest supporter.”

Wilson was very happy that Thunderkick Fitness opened up. He already knows the owner, Thomas Longacre, and felt that it was best to start MMA with someone he knew.

“It was a blessing in disguise,”

**DARYL WILSON IS THE NEXT AND UP AND COMING MMA FIGHTER OUT OF TULSA. HE IS A CREEK CITIZEN. YOUNG, TALENTED AND HAS THE HEART AND DESIRE TO PURSUE THIS CAREER. HE WILL BE A FORCE TO RECKON WITH IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS.**

**-THOMAS LONGACRE, THUNDERKICK FITNESS**

# MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZENS

Our goal at Muscogee Creek Nation is to provide Muscogee (Creek) citizens with job opportunities and a successful career path.

MCNC Recruitment Professionals are available to assist Muscogee (Creek) citizens in completing applications, interview skills, and job placement assistance. Please contact Lou Hernandez at (918) 995- 8371 for any questions. Muscogee (Creek) citizens are encouraged to visit the Human Resources Department on Thursdays from 9 am – 3 pm to interview for open positions. Please complete the online application at [www.creekcasinojobs.com](http://www.creekcasinojobs.com) in advance if possible. Please bring your Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship card or a CDIB card to the meeting.

Successful candidates must be able to obtain and maintain a gaming license issued by the Office of Public Gaming. A background investigation is required. Native-American preference is a policy and practice in recruitment, hiring, advancement, and retention.

Wilson was a wrestler the majority of his primary and secondary school career. After a while, Wilson took a break from wrestling while finishing up high school.

“I started wrestling in second grade up until my freshman year of high school,” Wilson said. “After my freshman year, I really didn’t want to wrestle anymore.”

After his high school days, Wilson missed the competitiveness of wrestling.

“I figured the only way to get back into something with wrestling involved was to try and do MMA, plus, I always wanted to try kickboxing,” Wilson said.

Wilson’s father was a kick-boxer when he was younger.

“I have never seen anything

Wilson said. “He opened up this gym around the time that I talked to my family about pursuing MMA. So with him opening up and helped me with my decision to go forward.”

Longacre has been working with Wilson ever since his first day that he walked into his gym. He is bringing him up slow to acclimate him to the competition.

“Daryl Wilson is the next and up and coming MMA fighter out of Tulsa,” Longacre said. “He is a Creek citizen. Young, talented and has the heart and desire to pursue this career. He will be a force to reckon with in the next couple of years.”

Wilson is the son of Angie Green Roller and Daryl Wilson I.

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## MCN Behavioral Health provides mental health screenings



Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds  
2013 National Mental Health Awareness Week was Oct. 6-12.

### Department participates in National Mental Health Awareness Week

Jessica McBride/Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Behavioral Health Program offered mental health screenings during the month of October at the MCN Health Centers to coincide with National Mental Health Awareness Week.

2013 National Mental Health Awareness week was Oct. 6-12.

The screenings are confidential and feature questions regarding eating and sleeping habits and potential risk taking behavior. This is the second year the Behavioral Health Program has offered the screenings.

“We did it last year and it went really well so we’re doing it again,” said Leslie Crow, Meth and Suicide Prevention Initiative Program Coordinator.

After the screenings, the program reviews answers to examine potential mental health issues such as suicidal behavior, mood disorders and post traumatic stress disorder.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/statistics](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/statistics), suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. The CDC also reports that suicide is the second leading cause of death among Native Americans ages 15-34.

“Native Americans are one of the populations at greatest risk for suicidal behaviors. Suicide is preventable,” Crow said.

The Behavioral Health Program has two grant-funded programs to address the issue of suicide: MSPI and the Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Program.

Crow said there is a link between substance abuse and mental health.

“Substance abuse is a mental issue,” Crow said.

Trainings are also offered that teach skills to help prevent suicide. According to Crow, more than 500 tribal employees have been trained in the past two years. The trainings raise mental health awareness and help prevent those with mental health issues, especially suicidal behavior, from slipping through the cracks.

The Behavioral Health Program offers assistance to all Native Americans living within the tribal boundaries.

“If someone is feeling suicidal they need to seek help immediately,” Crow said.

The program can also refer individuals to an inpatient facility and offers outpatient treatment afterwards. Counseling is available at the behavioral health clinics in Okmulgee, Sapulpa, Coweta, Eufaula, Okemah and Wetumka, Okla. The program also has psychologists and a psychiatrist on staff.

Crow believes culture may have an effect on suicide rates.

“Native Americans are often uncomfortable talking about their feelings, especially men,” Crow said. “Substance abuse is very prevalent among Native American populations, thus contributing to the high rates of suicide.”

According to Crow, suicide is a social stigma that the community needs to overcome. According to the CDC, an estimated 4.73 million Americans are the friend or family member of a suicide victim.

There are several things that the community can do to encourage individuals to seek help.

“Talk about it. Learn the warning signs and resources,” Crow said. “We can go to any community, school, organization or agency.”

Some warning signs of suicidal behavior include feelings of hopelessness, withdrawing from family and friends, increased alcohol or drug use, and writing or talking about suicide or death.

Suicidal behavior is not isolated to teens and young adults. People with increased risk of suicidal behavior are members of the armed forces, individuals with medical conditions and men who are mid-aged and older.

If you suspect someone is at risk of suicide, Crow said to ask them if they are thinking about killing themselves, call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline, seek help from an emergency room or medical professional, remove any objects that could be used in a suicide attempt and try not to leave the person alone if possible.

If you are interested in receiving suicide prevention training, please call the MCN Behavioral Health Program at: 918-758-1930.

If you are experiencing suicidal or homicidal thoughts you can call the program’s after hours crisis line at: 1-800-219-9458.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

## ICWA importance, challenges addressed by MCN department



MNN/File Photo  
Recent court cases have highlighted the Indian Child Welfare Act and the adoption of Native American children. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration strives to keep families intact and place children in Native homes.

### Recent adoption cases reveal concerns

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Indian Child Welfare Act and the adoption of Native American children have been popular topics in recent news. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration gives administration employees ICWA training to ensure the act is being followed.

ICWA is a federal law that Congress passed in 1978, which mandates that Native foster and adoption homes are given precedent when finding placement for children in the system, to ensure they are raised in Native culture.

“A lot of people get that confused believing the Indian Child Welfare Act is written on behalf of just individuals... when in reality it’s about the tribe’s rights to their children,” said Carmin Tecumseh-Williams, Children and Family Services Administration Manager.

The administration is involved in any case involving a Muscogee (Creek) child within the tribe’s jurisdiction.

Along with adoptive, foster and guardianship services, the administration offers Safe and Stable Families, a prevention program aimed at keeping families intact.

Tecumseh-Williams believes that the recent court cases have brought to light a topic that needs to be discussed. She also thinks that Native families will make it a priority to keep their children with the family.

The court case known to the public as ‘Baby Veronica’ has been highlighted in the media for the past several months.

In this case, a non-Native family in South Carolina, the Capobiancos, adopted a child eligible for citizenship with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma through her father ,Dusten Brown. The defense in the court case stated that the father of the child mistakenly signed away his parental rights to the birth mother, unaware that the child was going

to be adopted.

The adoption was contested in the South Carolina Supreme Court where Brown was awarded custody. The Capobiancos appealed the ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that Brown did not have rights under ICWA and sent the case back to the South Carolina Supreme Court for reconsideration, where the adoptive family was awarded custody of the child.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions in Greenville, S.C., obtained the birth family background report in the ‘Baby Veronica’ case. Laura Beauvais Godwin, South Carolina Director of the adoption agency directed the ‘Muscogee Nation News’ to the agency website for a statement regarding the case, which read:

“However, we believe that children do best in loving, nurturing families. We also believe that children do best when adoptive parents can offer their child a rich cultural heritage as well as maintain an open relationship with the child’s birth parents.” (See the end for a link to the full statement).

In another case involving the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma known as ‘Baby Deseray,’ a tribal member gave her child up for adoption without knowledge of the non-Native father. The child was taken to South Carolina by the adoptive parents prior to the finalization of the adoption process. The case is still ongoing.

According to Indian Country Today Media Network, Raymond Godwin is the attorney who handled litigation for the adoptive parents in the ‘Baby Deseray’ and ‘Baby Veronica’ cases.

Godwin’s law firm was not taking interviews regarding the cases at the time of publication.

According to Charles Tripp, partner for the Legal Advocates for Indian Country LLP in Owasso, Okla., financial services can be an incentive for the birth mother.

“I think what they’re doing is taking advantage of any mother who is in a bad situation, particularly one who is

in a bad financial situation,” Tripp said.

The firm previously served as the attorney general for the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe in the ‘Baby Deseray’ case.

Though some adoption agencies and attorneys may seem to be taking advantage of mothers in need, Tecumseh-Williams said that not all are that way.

“I believe that we have some good private adoption agencies that truly want to abide by ICWA and do contact us when things are going on and they have one of our children,” said Tecumseh-Williams.

Tripp said that the recent high profile cases have highlighted problems in the adoption process and these issues need to be discussed.

“These are just the ones we know of. How many more are there and have there been? And that’s where there’s a real problem,” Tripp said.

Tecumseh-Williams believes that adoption laws will be looked at more closely because of the recent cases. The community may see changes in state laws as well as in tribal codes.

In order to prevent corruption in the adoption process, Tripp said that the community must unite.

“It can’t just be the elected leaders of our tribes; it has to be all of us,” Tripp said.

According to Tecumseh-Williams, currently there are Muscogee (Creek) children who are currently in need of foster or adoptive parents.

“When one life of a child changes it changes not just for them but it changes for a generation... It’s important for us to keep our own; keep our own children with us,” Tecumseh-Williams said.

For more information about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, contact MCN Children and Family Services Administration at: 918-732-7869.

The full statement from Nightlight Christian Adoptions can be read at: [www.nightlight.org/2013/09/nightlights-position-openness-domestic-adoption](http://www.nightlight.org/2013/09/nightlights-position-openness-domestic-adoption).

The website for Raymond W. Godwin, Attorney at Law, PC is: [www.scadoption.net](http://www.scadoption.net).



# Learning our language 2013

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — September nineteenth, twenty-sixth, and October third - Sounds like a quarterback calling signals, doesn't it? Nah, it's just the class dates all put together; just like this article.

Since these particular classes worked on the same materials, I've put them all together into one piece: review, repeat, review, and repeat. But it wasn't repetitive in the sense that it just did the same thing over and over. Each time it was reviewed, a new question or explanation has emerged to give each section a new perspective.

What we are being taught are the more formal, complete words and phrases, as opposed to a more common, almost 'Mvskoke slang' version of some of this material used by many fluent speakers of Mvskoke. Naken estowek a = 'what are you doing?' becomes 'nak' stonca?

I think I'll be happy just remembering the original lesson.

That's okay with me, though. I think it's great to learn both. It should make hearing each version more useful and interesting.

Several important key elements in recent classes:

- 'ep' = makes the word more polite

- 'eck' = you in the second person: 'are you?'
- 'v' = at the end of a word makes it more of a question
- 'kis' = I am; in the present tense: letkis 'I am running'

We are asking to offer names and activities for making up sentences for our classroom purposes. Efvt posen aseces = 'dog is chasing the cat' or yvhvt pokken letketkv = 'wolf is running toward the ball' (I'm hoping that I heard and wrote those correctly).

We went over important phrases for family members, body parts and different basic pronouns.

Many of the phrases we learned put these pronouns to work and provided us with some useful working devices. Cvlawes = 'I'm hungry' and cvnockles = 'I'm sleepy.' In my case, one always follows the other; in that order. I'm sure I'm going to put those to work.

One delightful example of learning being done by Nick Hill's childrens' classes was about skunks = kunu. Mr. Nick said that one boy didn't even bother with the word for skunk; he just went directly to the chase: fumbe = stink.

Okay, that's enough of the repetition; any more might get fumbe.

- Hvtvm Cehecares.



# Emvpunyv: 'One who tells a story'



## Mascots (again), Native American holiday, Muscogee (Creek) artifacts return

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The numbers of opponents to the name of the professional football team in Disneyland-On-The-Potomac keeping growing, but there is still one big fight to make the team change its name.

President Barack Obama had said if he were owner, he would think about changing a name that offended many people.

The mayor of that town, several U.S. Congressmen and now a big TV sportscaster have called for the team to retire the name.

The National Congress of American Indians was just in town and one of its agenda items was calling for a name change. NCAA is one of many national Native American organizations expressing opposition to the name.

Defenders of the name say it's tradition and that there are many supporters for keeping

the name. I recognize there are many people who support that name.

I don't know, but I think the D.C. football team owners think it would cost too much money to change the name. I think that's the real bottom line.

Sorry, folks, I have never been nor never will feel 'honored' by that name. I don't think our people should be used for mascots. I used to live in D.C., and rooted for the home team, but never liked the name.

Many people point to the Florida State University Seminole mascot "Osceola," used with permission from the Seminole Tribe as an example of cooperation.

But I just saw a news clip from ESPN where Lee Corso came out in 'red-face' dressed like "Osceola" and was manhandled by Bill Murray while the sports casting team giggled and laughed. A simulated (I hope) eagle feather lance was taken away from "Osceola" and thrown to the ground.

Anybody feel honored by that? And forget about that old: "Lighten up, it was just a joke" stuff. Sorry, not to my way of thinking.

Back in mid-October, Tulsa World columnist Julie DelCour had a piece calling for a Native American Day in Oklahoma. But her piece wasn't the first attempt at bringing the subject up. It has come up in the state legislature years ago but was shot down.

The biggest argument against the idea is that it would cost too much to have so many people take another holiday off.

In the past, Oklahoma legislators actually proposed changing out Columbus Day for a Native American Day. On the surface, that would seem like it would be a fairly harmless trade-off, but it was not to be.

Remember the little song: "Columbus sailed the ocean blue..."

But, the land here belonged to you-know-who.

The Creek Council House collection of artifacts is back in Creek country. An 11th hour agreement was finally worked out that saved this incredible collection from the auction block.

The tribal museum staff has been busy unpacking the items, sending some to local museums for proper environmental storage and maybe, MAYBE, putting together a small exhibit at the Riverwalk for the distant future.

It is wonderful to have this happen, but 'dag-nab it' if I can get anybody to give details like how much it cost and whose budget that payment comes from.

- Hvtvm Cehecares 'I will see you again'



## SATURDAYS

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This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming



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# NCAI play depicts VAWA and survivors



MNN/Kyla McKown  
Kickapoo citizen Arigon Starr, who is also Muscogee (Creek) performs during the 'Sliver of a Full Moon Play,' which depicts the effort to pass the version of the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, which features provisions for Native Americans.

## Actors portray those involved in VAWA reauthorization

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — As part of the 70th Annual National Congress of American Indians convention, 'A Sliver of a Full Moon' play was presented to reenact the push to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act with the Native American provisions included.

The play, written by Cherokee Nation citizen Mary Kathryn Nagle, featured actors from several tribes including Kickapoo citizen Arigon Starr, who is also Muscogee (Creek).

Starr, who is an artist, musician, actress and comic book writer, said the chance for her to come back to Oklahoma to see her family was what got her onboard for the play.

Starr also believes in the importance of the issue.

“It’s to give a voice to people who aren’t being heard,” Starr said. “...Put these stories out there that don’t make the front

Giles said. “Especially non-Native offenders who weren’t being prosecuted.”

There was a collection of hundreds of stories from Native American women who had suffered from domestic violence. Giles said they utilized the stories involving non-Native offenders as key accounts for the play.

According to Giles, the reauthorization that passed is good for five years, so they are already looking into implementing changes for the 2018 reauthorization.

The VAWA task force is specifically looking to include Alaskan Native women in the reauthorization.

“They were left out. We have a meeting in a few weeks in Alaska to continue that movement to get them included,” Giles said.

Giles believes that with the help of Facebook and Twitter, the word and concerns of VAWA have gained tremendous recognition and support.

She pointed out other concerns regarding the legislation.

“What if it is a non-Native

**“IT’S TO GIVE A VOICE TO PEOPLE WHO AREN’T BEING HEARD. PUT THESE STORIES OUT THERE THAT DON’T MAKE THE FRONT PAGES AND AREN’T TALKED ABOUT ON FACEBOOK.”**

**- ARIGON STARR, 'SLIVER OF A FULL MOON' ACTOR**

pages and aren’t talked about on Facebook.”

Starr learned more about the legislation while participating in the play.

“I didn’t know much about VAWA except bits and blurbs,” Starr said. “You hear about jurisdiction issues and not being able to prosecute but it didn’t really gel with me until the people were telling their own stories.”

While during the process of producing the play, the VAWA reauthorization was passed and signed by President Barack Obama. That is when the focus of the play shifted the importance of the act, to a retrospective about the process.

Cherrah Giles, MCN Community and Human Services Director, said the original intention of the play was to show Congress what they aren’t seeing.

“They weren’t getting the picture or seeing these things really happen in Indian country,”

man you met at a powwow and you’re not in a relationship so you’re not deemed as a partner,” Giles said. “Things need to be done so that the court piece is in tact as far as the pilot part.”

MCN employees Shawn Partridge, Judge Greg Bigler and others are working on implementing the legislation at the MCN by meeting the federal stipulations contained within the reauthorization, which must be met in order to prosecute non-Native offenders.

“When that first case really gets prosecuted in any tribal courts, those non-Indians will be looking,” Giles said. “We have to do it right, reinserting our sovereignty.”

Giles wants to see a strong men batterers program at MCN.

“But we don’t want to throw our people away but we try to get them help and get their life together,” Giles said. “We want to seek funding and hope the tribe supports that as well.”

## Billboards promote awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence



Submission  
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program was able to put out 10 billboards across the tribal counties with the help of federal funding.

## FVPP projects message across tribal jurisdiction

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is projecting their cause across the MCN jurisdiction.

The program was able to put out 10 billboards across the tribal counties with the help of federal funding.

MCN FVPP Program Manager Shawn Partridge said the program was surprised by the amount of funding they received this year.

“It was a drastically increased amount so we were trying to come up with unique ways to spend that money and one of the initiatives we decided to

go with was the billboard campaign,” Partridge said.

For the campaign, FVPP took out a one year, \$150,000 advertising contract. According to Partridge, if the funding permits, they would like to do this again next year.

The billboards, which were designed by MCN Veterans Affairs Executive Officer Shawn Taryole, were designed to be appealing to the eye.

“From that point I started pulling everything together,” Taryole said. “...Billboards are a challenge, you have a limited time to look at them; three to five seconds if that. Color schemes, one thing we really concentrated on. A lot of color schemes have a meaning.”

The boards feature MCN citizens wearing traditional attire.

Partridge believes this is part of an initiative to provide ongoing education and awareness while promoting the program.

Partridge explained what she hopes to accomplish through the campaign and how.

“I think for people to be able to see those boards, you know just out driving along to help catch their attend and spark some thought,” Partridge said. “You know, if it’s a victim let them know they’re not alone.”

One of the billboards utilizes a statistic to promote awareness.

The billboard reads, ‘One in three women will be raped in her lifetime,’ and features three young female citizens.

Five of the ten boards are currently up and the other five should be finished shortly.

# Department promotes domestic violence awareness

## MCN FVPP educates community, offers assistance

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — One in four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime according to www.safehorizon.org and Native Americans are two-and-a-half times more likely to experience sexual assault crimes as compared to all other races according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

In order to combat these statistics, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program seeks to educate the community and provide help to those in abusive situations.

Family Violence Prevention offers counseling and assistance for victims of domestic violence and services are provided to anyone in the community including non-Natives.

According to Tania Bardin, MCN Family Violence Prevention Project Coordinator, the warning signs of domestic violence include: obsessive and controlling behavior, jealousy, limit access to friends and family and verbal and physical abuse.

Bardin said that a majority of the time, the initial warning signs are very subtle.

“At first it can seem routine... all these little things in the beginning don’t seem that abnormal until they accumulate and become abusive,” Bardin said.

Lack of communication in the relationship can be a sign of an abusive relationship. Bardin said that victims could fear communicating due unwanted actions from their oppressor.

Warning signs that an indi-

vidual is a victim of an abusive relationship include: attendance problems at school or work, distancing themselves from others and wearing out of season clothing such as long sleeves and a turtle neck shirt during warm weather.

“If it’s your friend or co-worker or something, you’re probably going

The Family Violence Prevention Program recommends that anyone who has experienced strangulation should seek medical treatment.

Death is another consequence of domestic violence. According to www.safehorizon.org, one in three women who are a victim of homicide are murdered by her current or former partner.

Bardin says that the statistics for Oklahoma are alarming.

“We’re third in the nation for homicide and suicides in domestic situations,” Bardin said.

According to Bardin, technology has become a new avenue for abuse, especially among teenagers.

“It doesn’t seem as obvious because kids are sending thousands of text messages a day,” Bardin said.

According to Bardin, victims often face the fear of being blamed for the abuse they experience. This can cause them to avoid seeking help because they feel they deserved the abuse.

Family Violence Prevention strives to educate people in order to combat ignorance.

“In order to prevent this, we as a society have

t o say it’s not OK,” Bardin said.

If you are a victim of domestic violence and need help call the MCN Family Violence Prevention program at: 918-732-7869.

For additional assistance, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at: 1-800-621-HOPE (4673).

For information on healthy relationships visit: www.loveisrespect.org.



## WW II veteran makes historic trip



MNN/Gerald Wofford  
Muscogee (Creek) World War II veteran Phillip Coon traveled to Tokyo Japan Oct. 12-21 where he met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and visited sites including the Prisoner of War camp where he was held during WWII. Phillip was escorted to the airport by members of Rolling Thunder Inc. and was greeted by the group upon his return.

### Phillip Coon, son Michael visit Japan upon invitation from emperor

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

SAPULPA, Okla. — Escorted by Rolling Thunder Inc. with a dark blue morning sky as a backdrop, Muscogee (Creek) World War II veteran Phillip Coon and his son Michael, left the Sapulpa Indian Community Center Oct. 12 toward the Tulsa International Airport for their trip to Tokyo, Japan.

Michael and his father were given an invitation by the Emperor of Japan Akihito, along with other veterans and their families, on what is being called a “Friendship Tour.”

The veterans will meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and visit the Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery in Tokyo and the Kosaka- Machi

Prisoner of War camp where Phillip was held during WWII.

For Rolling Thunder Local Chapter Vice President John Lehmann, the escort is a labor of love.

“We love Mr. Coon,” Lehmann said. “When Michael asked us to be here, there was no question. He’s already part of the family and we’ll be there when he comes home.”

On the evening of Oct. 21, they returned home to a hero’s welcome from fellow veterans, well wishers along with a Bronze Start and Prisoner of War Medal given by U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Rita Aragon.

Michael met with military officials earlier and was told his father would eventually be given the medals but had not been told a specific date.

“I had hoped that the medals would be given when we landed. It was great that they were and dad’s reaction when he received them.”

## Strategic planning session organizes community



Submission  
Oklahoma Small Business Development Center Regional Director Nancy Jackson, spoke during a strategic planning session Oct. 2 at the Bristow Indian Community Center

### Bristow Indian Community plans for future

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

BRISTOW, Okla. — A strategic planning session, sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department, was held Oct. 2 at the Bristow Indian Community Center.

Sarai Geary, MCN CRD Manager, said that this is the first strategic planning session held for an MCN community.

Several sessions will be held in order for the community to complete a strategic plan. The sessions help promote organization and planning for the future.

Geary believes that the sessions will assist the community with establishing goals and outlining the steps to meet these goals.

“Any kind of business; any kind of organization needs a clear vision; needs a clear path and to know what they’re working for,” Geary said.

MCN CRD invited Oklahoma Small Business Develop-

ment Center Regional Director, Nancy Jackson to guide the Bristow community through the planning process.

Calvin Barnett, Bristow Indian Community Chairman believes that the sessions will help the community with their economic development and establishing a two to three year plan.

“We are at a growth spurt. The chief has signed off on our boundary change... so with that, that was the purpose. We had her come in and kind of get us going in the right direction,” Barnett said.

Barnett hopes that more community members will attend the sessions so that additional ideas will be brought to the table and the community can progress.

“Ultimately we have a goal in mind. Since we are growing, we would like to see another community center,” said Barnett.

Once the Bristow community has completed a strategic plan, Geary said that the opportunity would be available to other MCN communities.

The next strategic planning session was scheduled Oct. 22 at the Bristow Indian Community Center.

## MCN VASO: Contingency Plan 'Alpha'

### MCN responds to, plans for government budget crisis

Submission/MCN VASO

With approval from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, Second Chief Roger Barnett, and with a unanimous vote on NCA 13-253 from the MCN National Council led by Speaker Sam Alexander and sponsored by Rep. Lena Wind, Contingency Plan ALPHA is now in effect with \$1 million in place to temporarily fund payments normally paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans of the MCN and/or their surviving spouses and dependents.

During the federal government shutdown, it was determined by the MCN Veteran Affairs Services Office to have a contingency plan ready in case the MCN’s compensation payments from the VA for veterans and their surviving spouses and dependents were halted during the budget crisis.

Above is the why it was and is being implemented. Here are the details below.

Who is eligible for this program?

All veterans, surviving spouses and dependents awarded the VA college plan title 35 that are Muscogee (Creek) citizens living in the U. S. must show proof of citizenship, and tribal enrollment, which will be verified through the MCN Citizenship Office. Veterans, surviving spouses and dependents must be in current receipt of compensation, pension, DIC or title 35 payments from the VA.

What amount will be loaned?

The contingency plan in effect will loan to eligible personnel, a figure rounded to lower \$100 figure of their monthly payment normally received from the VA at a zero percent (0%) interest rate. Examples: A veteran receives \$810 per month – amount issued for loan will be \$800. A veteran receives \$888 per month – amount issued for loan will be \$800. This plan is available for only one month during the U.S. Government’s inability or inaction to render payments to veterans, surviving spouses and dependents.

When will this plan happen?

Since the budget crisis has ended, for now, it was intended to cover either November or December 2013. It seems, as of now, that this crisis is settled, but in January and February 2014 the process will be negotiated again within the U.S. government executive and legislative branches. If a similar crisis should arise, the MCN VASO will pay attention to the process and if necessary ask our executive and legislative branches to approve the release of reserved funding.

Where will the process take place?

In the event of a funding freeze, the issuing of supplemental funds will take place at our tribe’s Multi-Purpose Building. The dates and times will be announced as soon as possible. Strict respect for our tribe’s veterans and/or their surviving spouses’ and dependents’ privacy and security will be followed. If a veteran and/or their surviving spouses or dependents are determined to be incapable of coming to Okmulgee then a quick alternative will be offered. Only those who receive funds are authorized to sign for the loan. In the case of a dependent, the veteran sponsor will co-sign.

How the process will work?

If the contingency plan is activated, the planned transference of funds will take place the last two days of the payment month and the first day of the next month. Example: No payment for January 2014 from the VA- MCN VASO will issue funds on Jan. 30-31, 2014 and Feb. 1, 2014. Tables will be set-up to process the loans within the Multi-Purpose Building. At each table will be three individuals to assist. There will be one individual from VASO, one National Council representative, or an MCN chief, and one individual from the MCN Finance Department. If veterans and/or their surviving spouses and dependents experience a funding freeze due to a U.S. government shutdown, they are required to bring in the following documentation to be approved for a 0% loan from the MCN:

- Proof of Muscogee (Creek) Citizenship
- VA file number
- VA current disability rating
- VA current monthly disability payment
- Social Security number
- Full mailing and physical addresses
- Phone numbers to include alternates
- The veteran and/or their surviving spouses or dependents will be issued the funds after verification and signing of loan agreement is accomplished.
- There will be no credit checks or references asked for, or required.
- If the veteran and/or their surviving spouses or dependents are under a non-payment status from VA due to previous overpayments, etc. then the VASO funds loan will be at the current receiving from the VA.
- Out of State veterans and/or their surviving spouses and dependents will accomplish process via mail, fax or e-mail. Funds transference will be accomplished by either direct deposit, or expedited mail.
- Access into the Multi-Purpose building will be restricted to veterans and/or their surviving spouses and dependents, and no more than one family member, or escort will be allowed with the recipient.
- There will be a full complement of armed MCN’s Light-horse present at all times.
- Lastly, there will be no cameras allowed during the processing. Press will not be allowed to interview, take pictures, etc. The respect of recipients’ privacy and security is of the utmost concern and matters are best settled quietly.

How is the loan repaid to MCN?

- The full amount is to be repaid within sixty days (60) after the end of the budget crisis after the VA reinstates full payments. Example: Budget crisis ends on 25 January 2014 and no check is issued by the VA on 1 February 2014 for the month covering January 2014. Our tribe will loan funds for the month of January 2014. The VA reinstates payments effective March 1, 2014, which pays for February 2014, and includes retroactive payment for January 2014. Then the full sixty days (60) repayment days concludes and due on, or by, May 1, 2014.
- If there is not retroactive payment from the VA, then the options of either extending the loan repayment timeframe will be extended, requiring less repaid then what was loaned by our tribe or forgiving of the loan in its entirety. The decision will

be made with all alternatives and parameters explored in a timely manner.

- Repayments to our tribe must be made by check or money order with the recipient’s Social Security number on each check for repayment tracking purposes.
- If repayment is not accomplished with the sixty days (60) allotted time then an immediate fine of \$200, and an assigned interest rate of 10% of the original loan amount will be added to the total loan amount. The recipient then has another forty-five days (45) to repay what is owed along with the fine and interest rate applied. If recipient fails to repay within the new forty-five days (45) allotted time then legal action will be taken through our MCN’s District Court, and the offender’s name will be published in our tribal newspaper.

Summation of NCA 13-253:

- 1.) All of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s National Council Representatives present at the Oct. 15, 2013 Emergency Session voted in favor of legislation NCA 13-253. They were:
  - Alexander, Sam – Tulsa District (Legislation Co-Sponsor)
  - Barnett, Dode – Creek District
  - Beaver, Pete – Muskogee District
  - Coachman, Franklin – Okfuskee District (Legislation Co-Sponsor)
  - Greene, Johnnie – Wagoner/Roger/Mayes District (Legislation Co-Sponsor)
  - Hill, David – Creek District
  - Hufft, Robert – Tulsa District
  - Jones, Adam – McIntosh District (Legislation Co-Sponsor)
  - LaGrone, Eddie – Muskogee District
  - Medina, Kara – Tulsa District (Legislation Co-Sponsor)
  - Randolph, Mark – Wagoner/Roger/Mayes District
  - Thomas, Pearl – Okmulgee District (Legislation Co-Sponsor)
  - Wind, Lena – Okfuskee District (Legislation Sponsor)
  - Yahola, Thomas – Tukvpytce District
- 2.) This is historic legislation. As of this article no other tribe in the United States has offered this type of plan for their veterans. Hopefully the other tribes will follow the example of our Muscogee (Creek) Nation-and prepare.
- 3.) This humble act of benevolence by our Chiefs and National Council should not ever be forgotten. They saw and heard the need for action and they, as a representative body, took swift and decisive action on behalf of our tribe’s veterans. VASO requested \$800,000, but the National Council authorized by their own initiative, action and vote \$1 million to be used if the event happens.

God bless our Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and God bless our Muscogee (Creek) veterans

Semper Fidelis,  
Ken Davis  
VASO





# MCN COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL EVENTS

## SHELL CARVING CLASS PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Cultural Preservation is seeking citizens interested in participating in shell carving classes. Classes will be three to four hours Monday - Thursday.

The exact dates will be announced depending on citizens' interest. Supplies and materials will be furnished and class size will be limited.

To sign up, please call Johnnie at: 918-732-7733.

## NATIVE MADE ART FESTIVAL SET FOR NOV. 1-2

JENKS, Okla. — The 2013 Native Made Arts Festival is set for 3-8 p.m., Nov. 1-2 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Riverwalk in Jenks. The event will feature art music and food for the whole family.

For more information call the Mvskoke Nation Business Enterprise at: 918-752-3150 or email the MCN Department of Tourism and Recreation at: tourism@mcn-nsn.gov.

## FRY BREAD COOK OFF SET FOR NOV. 2

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The first annual Indian Fry Bread Cook Off is set for Nov. 2 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Creek Nation Casino Muscogee, 3420 W. Peak Blvd., Muskogee, OK 74401.

The winner will receive \$150 and registration is \$25. Proceeds will benefit the Murrow Indian Children's Home. All bread must be made on site and cooks must furnish their own materials. There is no fee for general attendance.

For vendor spaces call Shari Kamp at: 918-682-2586. For contest rules and entry forms call Kathy Old Crow at: 214-704-7447.

## TARYOLE FAMILY RE-UNION SET FOR NOV. 2

NUYAKA, Okla. — A family reunion for the descendents of Prince Taryole is set for Nov. 2 at the home of Boy Gibson starting at 12 p.m.

Please bring at pot-luck dish and/or beverage and a bingo prize.

For more information please contact Brandi Taryole at: 918-946-6548.

## DAVIS CHAPEL REVIVAL SET FOR NOV. 3-5

COWETA, Okla. — A revival is set for Nov. 3-5 at Davis Chapel in Coweta.

Rev. Bernadine Dowdy will be speaking Nov. 3, Rev. David Little Nov. 4 and Ben Ewing Nov. 5.

Refreshments will be served nightly. For more information call Paul Tecumseh at: 918-270-0231.

## BENEFIT SPAGHETTI DINNER SET FOR NOV. 4

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Benefit Spaghetti Dinner, hosted by the Open Gate Program, is set for Nov. 4 from 5-7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 701 S. Mission, Okmulgee, OK.

Tickets are \$6 per person and include dinner, dessert and a beverage. The money raised will go toward the installation of a commercial sized stove that was donated to the Open Gate Program by a local business.

Tickets may be purchased at our office or call Dee Hennigan at: 918-756-5563.

The Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce phone number is: 918-756-6172.

## CAN MAKING CLASSES SET FOR NOV. 4

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Cultural Preservation has scheduled can making classes for stompdance cans beginning, from 5:30-9:30 p.m., Nov. 4 at the Cultural Preservation Library.

Classes are limited to eight people and will be taught by Billy Wilson. Tools and materials will be provided. Muscogee (Creek) citizens wishing to sign up contact Johnnie Wesley at: 918-732-7733.

The first Muskogean Symposium, held Oct. 10-11 was a huge success. Thank you to all who attended.

## JOB FAIR SET FOR NOV. 7

TULSA, Okla. — A job fair, hosted by the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission, is set for Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Central Center at Centennial Park, 1028 E. Sixth St.

Registration is open until Nov. 1 for employers who wish to participate and a six foot table space at the fair is \$175.

For more information contact Chairman of the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission at: 918-704-2200 or email: gtaiacinfo@gmail.com.

## VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON SET FOR NOV. 7

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Senior Services Luncheon, hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services Department, is set for Nov. 7 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, located at 8th and Seminole in Okmulgee. The first 100 seniors 55-years-old and over to RVSP may bring a spouse or one family member.

For more information or to RVSP call: 918-732-7765.

## EUCHEE HERITAGE FESTIVAL BOW SHOOT SET FOR NOV. 9

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Euchee/Yuchi Heritage Festival Traditional Bow Shoot is set for Nov. 9 on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee starting at 10 a.m.

The entry fee is \$5 and the pot for first shoot, starting before lunch, will be split with the Yuchi. The winner of the second shoot, starting after lunch, will win \$40. The shoot will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

For more information call Shelby Flowers at: 918-230-1992.

## YUCHI FALL INDIAN MARKET SET FOR NOV. 9

SAPULPA, Okla. — The Fall Indian Market is set for Nov. 9 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Yuchi House, 1010 S. Main, Sapulpa, OK. The event will feature Native American arts and crafts, traditional foods, local fresh produce, jewelry, clothing, artwork, demonstrations and vendors. Free space is available for vendors and artists.

For reservations call Amy at: 918-224-7017.

## NATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS EVENT SET FOR NOV. 16

TULSA, Okla. — The twelfth annual Native Flair Native American Arts and Crafts Event is set for 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 16 at Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church. The event will feature a variety of work from local Native American artists and a traditional food sale.

For more information call: 918-834-1956 or 918-230-3181.

## LOUIS-MARSHALL RE-UNION SET FOR NOV. 30

WETUMKA, Okla. — A Louis and Mandy Marshall family reunion is set for Nov. 30 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Wetumka Community and Adult Center. Family members are encouraged to submit their favorite cooking recipes so cookbooks can be made before the next reunion. Bring covered dish, desert and door prize for adults and children of all ages. T-shirts will be for sale.

For information contact Jimmie at: 405-629-5228 or Bety at 918-623-7356.

## HOME BUYER CLASS SET FOR NOV. 16

OKMULGEE Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division has set a first time home buying class for Nov. 16 at the Housing Division second floor conference room in Okmulgee.

For more information call Ladonna Northcross at: 918-549-2554.

## THANKSGIVING POT LUCK DINNER SET FOR NOV. 21

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Thanksgiving pot luck dinner, hosted by the monthly Creek Singers, is set for Nov. 21 at the Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee.

The event starts at 6 p.m. and singing begins at 7 p.m.

For more information contact Tecumseh Jackson at: 918-752-1597.

## TCIC MEETING SET FOR NOV. 21

TULSA, Okla. — A Tulsa Creek Indian Community meeting is set for Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. A potluck dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

For more information contact TCIC at: 918-298-2464.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SET FOR DEC. 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Christmas Bazaar, sponsored by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Citizens, is set for Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Elderly Nutrition Center north of the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The event will feature baked goods and traditional and holiday crafts.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SET FOR DEC. 7

TULSA, Okla. — A Christmas Bazaar, hosted by the Tulsa Creek Indian Community, is set for Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Booth rental is \$20 for 6 foot table space. Bring your own table and donate an item worth \$20. Concessions will be available and door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

For more information and to sign up for booth space contact TCIC at: 918-298-2464.

## GIC HOSTING BLUES JAM SESSION AND WORKSHOP

GLENPOOL, Okla. — The Glenpool Indian Community is hosting a blues jam session and workshop every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. through the end of November at the GIC Community Center located next to the smoke shop off of U.S. Highway 75.

The sessions are from 7-9 p.m. with the beginner session beginning at 7 p.m. and the intermediate at 8 p.m.

For more information call: 918-855-0978.

## 2013 MCN DOH Mobile Flu Clinic Schedule

MCN DOH/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health will be providing flu immunizations to Native American citizens within the MCN boundaries beginning in October. DOH has set the following dates and locations for immunizations:

- November**
- Nov. 5 - Wetumka Indian Community  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Nov. 6 - Weleetka Indian Community  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Nov. 12 - MCN Holdenville Casino  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.



## Absentee ballots before campaign mailers

### Citizen submission

I received my absentee ballot for the upcoming election three weeks ago. At that time I had received one candidate's campaign literature.

I can't believe that I am the only one that sends their absentee ballot in as soon as I receive it. Not wanting to let it to lay idle with the possibility of missing getting it mailed back so that my vote counts.

Since the time that I mailed my ballot back I have received three more candidates literature. If a candidate is going to run for a tribal office it looks like they would be better prepared and have their literature in the hands of those that are going to cast their vote by absentee ballot before the ballots are mailed out to the voters.

This is a waste of expense that the candidates are spending in printing and mailing that could be better used elsewhere. I want to thank all of people that are responsible for preparing and mailing out the absentee ballots.

Thank you very much.  
Terry Hughes



## Operation Christmas Child collection week set for Nov. 18-25

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham, that demonstrates God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with local churches worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.

National Collection Week is Nov. 18-25 and the Relay Center in Okmulgee is located at Town and Country Christian Church, 1160 E 36th, Okmulgee, OK 74447. The website will show the five closest relay centers: [www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/).

The Okmulgee hours are:  
Nov. 18 - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Nov. 19 - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Nov. 20 - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Nov. 21 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Nov. 22 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Nov. 23 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Nov. 24 1-5 p.m.  
Nov. 25 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

A packing party is set for 1 p.m., Nov. 9 at the Okmulgee County Fairgrounds. For more information contact Samaritan's Purse at 828-262-1980.

## Kerr Center to hold courses on farming, ranching

MFSI/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative is beginning the third year of a partnership with the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture for the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program. The training will be offered not only at the MFSI offices in Okmulgee but the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Poteau, Okla.

The goals of the program are to teach attendees to develop successful agricultural enterprises, operate financially viable farms/ranches and be good stewards of the land.

Registration is currently open for the program and will continue until Nov. 15. Scholarship recipients will be notified Dec. 15.

Those interested in registering for the program can learn more at: [www.kerrcenter.com/beginning-farmers/index..html](http://www.kerrcenter.com/beginning-farmers/index..html). There is no fee for the program.

Participants may choose to follow either a livestock or horticulture curriculum track. Business planning instruction will be a component of both tracks. This component will cover: goal setting, marketing, operations, human resources and finances.

All classes will be held on Saturday. Training will be held at the Kerr Center in Poteau, OK and the MFSI offices in Okmulgee, OK. This year's program will include both horticulture and livestock at both locations.

For more information call Hannah at the Kerr Center: 918-647-9123 or June Marshall and Lynn Duke at MFSI: 918-756-5915.



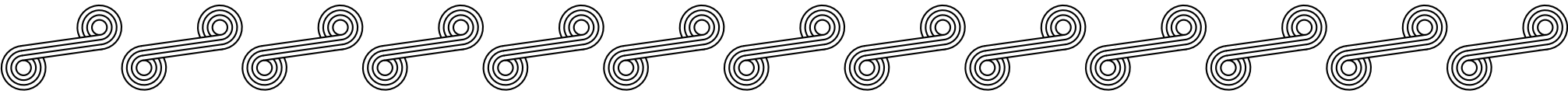
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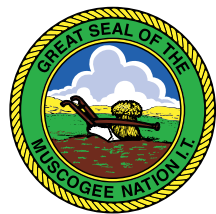


# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## MCN honors veterans for service to tribe, country

NOV. 15, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 22  
"EHOLE"  
FROST MONTH



### Nation observes Veterans Day

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Does anyone understand what 11-11-11 means in relating to Veterans Day? The 11-11-11 is in reference to the 11th hour of the 11th day and the 11th month, which marked the end of World War I. This is why the Veterans Day federal holiday is Nov. 11 every year.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veteran Affairs Services Office hosted a Muscogee Veterans Appreciation Day ceremony Nov. 8 to honor Muscogee (Creek) veterans who served in the armed forces.

VASO helps veterans to secure benefits from the U.S. and Oklahoma Departments of Veteran Affairs. The office handles the claims and processes all the paperwork. They are there with the veterans every step of the way to make sure everything is done correctly.

The MCN was closed Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day and the VASO held the ceremony acknowledging and honoring



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Retired Pvt. 1st Class of the 101st Marine Division Willis Knight gives the invocation during Muscogee (Creek) Veterans Appreciation Day held Nov. 8 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building.

these brave warriors three days earlier.

"This is very typical of our tribe to come out and help and observe our veterans," VASO Director Ken Davis said. "This tribe has always come through and gone above and beyond in helping our veterans."

This year's holiday marks the

60th anniversary of the end of Korean War. According to the VASO page on the MCN website: [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov), there were a number of Muscogee (Creek) citizens who fought in this war.

Six of these Muscogee soldiers were killed-in-action and two

of these soldiers were killed in captivity as prisoners of war in North Korea. Their remains have not yet been returned from the North Korean government.

"The Department of Defense recognized the ending of the

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## Annual Pink Party held for breast cancer awareness

### Survivors share realities of disease

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

GLENPOOL, Okla. — In 2003, Irene Washington, was diagnosed with breast cancer. The doctors found masses in two areas on her right breast.

"So I was taken to Tulsa to get a biopsy," Washington said. "The doctors found the lumps and I was diagnosed with breast cancer."

The doctors had to explain to Washington that they were going to have to remove the breast or the masses would spread and get worse for her. She ended up having surgery (mastectomy) to remove her right breast.

Fortunately for Washington, she did not have to have any radiation treatments for this disease.

Another survivor, Pauline Haney, was diagnosed with breast cancer in July 2012.

"It stunned me," Haney said. "I could not believe it that this had happened. They took a mammogram and did a second one and that is when



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health hosted the 10th Annual Pink Party Oct. 30 at the Glenpool Conference Center.

they diagnosed me."

Recent checkup for Haney has shown that she is still cancer free after her lumpectomy.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health hosted the 10th Annual Pink Party Oct. 30 at the Glenpool Conference Center. Along with Washington and Haney, several breast cancer survivors were sitting in the audi-

ence.

"I have been attending every year since they have been having the Pink Party," Washington said. "I have two daughters and I have told them that they need to keep up with their mammogram checks to be safe."

Dr. Kathryn Zackery, of Okemah, Okla., who now works for the MCN Depart-

ment of Health was the keynote speaker for the Pink Party.

"Because there have been more awareness the numbers have decreased for death," Zackery said. "It is important for us to find the diagnosis if it is there. One in eight women will have breast cancer."

Zackery spoke to the audience on the awareness and the steps people need to take for the early detection of breast cancer.

"As breast cancer awareness is becoming more popular, I do get a lot of questions from patients who want to know more about it," Zackery said. "In my visits with my patients, I do stress the importance to do your preventative exams."

Booths featuring representatives from different departments within the MCN and other entities were on hand to pass out information from their programs.

"This is a really important part of our life and to see other survivors here and ev-

PINK - 2

### CNG stations funding addressed during Council quarterly session

### MCN to sponsor Tulsa Revolution professional soccer team

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Oct. 26 at the MCN Mound Building.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger gave a quarterly report, which included tribal business pertaining to: the purchase of Rex's Chicken Franchise by Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, MCN National Council election run-offs and the passage of NCA 13-031 during the primary election, which added a seventh justice to the MCN Supreme Court.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 13-143 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a management system certification/accreditation agreement between the Nation and Det Norske Veritas. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-137 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a credit agreement with Mercedes Medical on behalf of the Nation's Department of Health. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-138 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an affiliation agreement between MCN DOH and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-139 Authorizing the Nation to participate in a federal study of the Nation's Food Distribution Program. Rep. Pearl Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-140 Authorizing the principal chief to ex-

COUNCIL - 4





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EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
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Okmulgee Mayor proclaims Native American Heritage Month



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and Okmulgee Mayor Steven Baldrige proclaim November as Native American Heritage Month Nov. 6 at the MCN Creek Council House.

MCN, city officials gather at Council House

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — President Barack Obama, Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and now Okmulgee Mayor Steven Baldrige have all proclaimed November 2013 as Native American Heritage Month.

In a ceremony at the MCN Council House Nov. 6, Baldrige joined with MCN tribal officials to make the proclamation for the City of Okmulgee.

Baldrige had served on the city committee that negotiated the sale of the Council House back to the MCN and

stated that they were honored to share a community with the tribe.

The proclamation, Baldrige announced: “Whereas, Okmulgee is the home and capital of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, therefore, I, Steven Baldrige, Mayor of the City of Okmulgee do hereby proclaim the month of November, 2013, as Native American Heritage Month in the City of Okmulgee, Okla., and urge all officials and the general public to join in this celebration.”

In accepting the document, Tiger said the spirit of cooperation between the MCN and the city was reflected in the similarity of their two proclamations.

“Mayor, you’re truly right. When two governmental entities can come together and talk about collaborations

and partnerships and, as the speaker alluded to, of this is just the beginning of something that we can all be proud of in the future,” Tiger said.

Baldrige agreed with Tiger’s statement regarding the cooperation between the two governments, adding that the MCN is a vital part of the city economy.

“The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is the largest employer in Okmulgee County and obviously, the largest employer in Okmulgee city limits. So, they have a huge impact on the city of Okmulgee. We embrace the Creek Nation. Their people live in our community and they’re part of the community.”

Baldrige concluded that the two governments were working to build bridges and would be collaborating on projects in the future.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens receive Dream Keepers Awards



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Pauline Haney accepts the Dream Keepers Award Nov. 4 during the 16th annual Dream Keepers Award Banquet at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa Campus.

Honoree banquet held at University of Oklahoma-Tulsa campus

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The City of Tulsa and Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs commission hosted the 16th annual Dream Keepers Awards Banquet Nov. 4, in honor of Native American Month, and five recipients were Muscogee (Creek).

The recipients are Pauline Haney, Willie Haney, Mark Simms, the late Monetta Trepp and Creek-owned business Prescor Inc.

These award recipients were chosen because of their leadership in communities and exemplifying strong character to make a difference.

Pauline Haney received the Charles Chibitty Family Community Contributor Award. She was a talented actress and member of the American Indian Theater Company of Oklahoma, as well as being very involved in her community and story telling.

“I used to go with Woodrow to receive his awards and we’d bring them home and put them on our fireplace,” Pauline Haney said. “Now his son and I are here tonight receiving awards and I know this reminds you Willie of your father and all he did.”

Her late husband’s son, Willie Frank Haney Sr., also received an award at the banquet. He received the Roberta Pratt Gardipe American Indian Veterans Award. Willie Haney joined the U.S. Navy in 1968 and served with distinction, honor and valor during the Vietnam War. In 1988 he assisted in the startup of the MCN Color Guard as well.

Mark Simms received the Dr. Ralph Dru Career and Professional Award. Simms is the founder of Accent Pest Control Inc., which has grown to be the largest independently Native American-owned pest control company along with other business ventures, such as Bartlesville Properties Inc. since 1989.

Trepp received the Kenneth Anquoe Lifetime Achievement Award, which was pre-

sented to her sons in her honor. She passed away April 26, but left family with words to live by.

While her sons were able to accept the award for their mother, they also received an award for their company, Prescor Inc. Wally, Tom and Rob Trepp received the Lewis B. Ketchum Excellence in Business Award.

Prescor produces tank heads and serves a variety of fabricators. They process more than 16 tons of raw steel each day.

“My father started Prescor as a hobby when he retired,” Tom Trepp said. “Now we have 20 employees who’ve worked for more than 20 years and half of those are Creek or Native American at least, as well.”

“Having the opportunity to continue past traditions, as well as to pass them along to our younger generations and outsiders, is a privilege and honors the American Indian heritage. Helping our youth discover art, acting and learn business skills helps them succeed,” Trepp said, which were words that had been written down from the past.

VETERANS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Korean War,” Davis said. “So in each year they will try to have different themes. With that being said, while we are honoring every single veteran that has been in service, they are using this year to honor the ending of the Korean War.”

At the ceremony at the Mound Building, Marine Corps Sgt. Sarah Baker presented the Purple Heart Medal to her uncle Michael Baker in honor of her great-grandfather George Baker who was killed-in-action at the Battle of St. Mihiel during World War I.

Mary Johnson works for National Sourcing Inc., which is a disabled veteran owned contracting company for the U.S. Army and Decorations Branch. Johnson did the research on finding George Baker’s records, which allowed for his family to get his Purple Heart.

“I was in shock when I found the records,” Johnson said. “I had to read it at least three to four times to believe it was him. It is an honor and pleasure to help these veterans in anyway that I can.”

Sarah Baker was on the board of directors for the Native American Living Warriors. She was a part of the first all-female Native American color guard. They traveled around the country raising awareness not only for female Native American veterans but all Native veterans who fought and served in the armed forces.

“From last November to this November, in just the one year, the awareness that has been brought upon our natives serving in the military is absolutely amazing,” Sarah Baker said.

After the ceremony was held at the MCN Mound Building, all the veterans were invited over to MCN One Fire Casino for lunch. The casino held a \$500 cash drawing every 30 minutes for the Muscogee (Creek) veterans.

“Another great example of our tribe,” Davis said. “To have this done for the veterans is special. They are more than willing to recognize and honor our veterans.”

PINK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

everyone that is supporting us shows us that we are not alone,” Washington said. “I am sitting with the other survivors and we all know what each and everyone has went through.”

Haney stressed the importance to pass on the knowledge about breast cancer awareness.

“We have gotten to know several women who are cancer survivors,” Haney added. “Among our Native women it is good for us to know and to share what we know. Anything that I know I am willing to help other people with cancer because I am still learning too.”

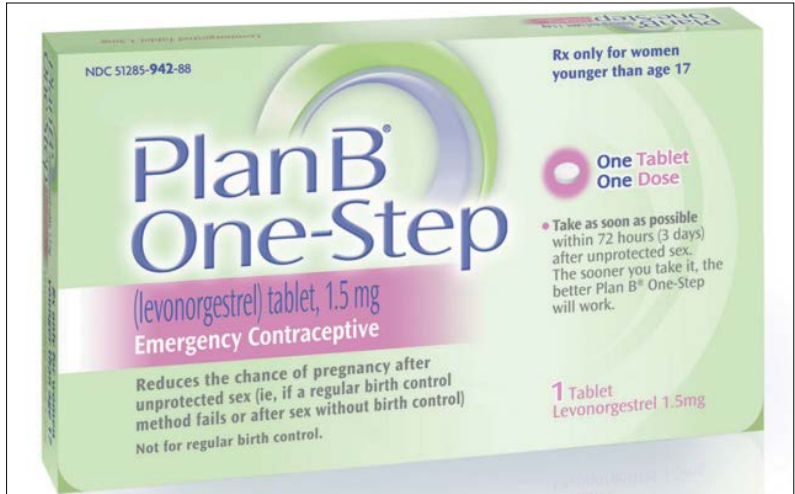
Washington or Haney have not slowed down in life.

My life has been great since the surgery,” Washington said. “I have not let that bother me, bring me down or discourage me from living my life.”

For more information on breast cancer, go to: www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-facts.



## IHS makes changes to emergency contraception access



Google Images  
Indian Health Services approves the purchase of emergency contraception without a prescription, however, Muscogee (Creek) Nation is not carrying the products.

## MCN DOH discusses stance on provision of Plan B services

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Native women now have the opportunity to purchase emergency contraception without a prescription or doctor visit. Emergency contraception, such as Plan B, is now available to any woman 17 years or older behind a pharmacy counter, according to an Indian Health Services press release. Before the changes were made, IHS required women to seek a prescription before purchasing the drug. As for Muscogee (Creek) Nation healthcare facilities, emergency contraception isn't offered

come up with something that is acceptable for everyone. “Most likely it would be through Contract Health the emergency assistance program,” Vark said. Vark expressed that he respects people’s morals and beliefs on the issue. “I don’t want to fall on one side of this because it is very controversial,” Vark said. “I completely respect the beliefs and morals of everyone on the issue.” Aside from the ethical and moral concerns, emergency contraception is not as affective as utilizing birth control. “There are also side effects,” Vark said. “Nausea, stomach distress, the pill and the emergency contraception don’t prevent STD’s. It’s a very complicated issue but we want to make the right decisions for the patients

**"THERE'S A LOT OF RELIGIOUS AND MORAL AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS THAT GO ALONG WITH THIS TYPE OF CONTRACEPTION,"**

**- MCN DOH OFFICER DR. LAWRENCE VARK**

to patients. MCN Department of Health Chief Medical Officer Dr. Lawrence Vark explained the complex moral implications of the issue. “There’s a lot of religious and moral and ethical questions that go along with this type of contraception,” Vark said. “So depending on, you know, through IHS concern registered by both the physicians, nurse practitioners, as well as pharmacists dispensing this medication.” Vark explained the tribe would consider coming up with a voucher program for citizens to obtain and take to the private sector of healthcare for the product. Although it is such an ethical issue, officials are looking to

we serve; so we’re taking a good, hard look at it.” Birth control pills are available for free with a prescription through any MCN healthcare facility. While Plan B may be used up to five days after unprotected sex but the earlier it is taken; the more effective it is. “It reduces the chance by about 89 percent, which means 100 women engage in unprotected sex, about eight will get pregnant,” Vark said. “By reducing by 89 percent, basically one in 100 women would get pregnant if they all use this emergency contraception.” Vark explained that emergency contraception works by preventing ovulation and by making changes in the cervix.

## MCN to participate in VAWA pilot project



Mvsokke Media/Tate DeLana  
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is one of approximately 30 tribes who are participating in the Violence Against Women Act Pilot Project.

## Project allows for early enactment of law

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is one of approximately 30 tribes who are participating in the Violence Against Women Act Pilot Project. The Act, passed by Congress in March 2013, grants tribes jurisdiction to try non-Native domestic violence offenders in their respective tribal courts. The Pilot Project has been divided into two phases by the U.S. Department of Justice. Phase one of the project includes planning for implementation and what changes will have to be made in order to abide by the law. Phase two of the project allows tribes to begin practicing the law prior to the VAWA enactment date of March 7, 2015. “The Pilot Project also gives the tribes the opportunity to share best practices and how to implement certain things... it gives us an opportunity to share ideas,” MCN Prosecutor Shelly Harrison said. The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes as well as the National Congress of American Indians held special sessions on VAWA so that tribes could address the issue and share ideas for implementation. The DOJ may begin the phase two application process

as early as the beginning of 2014. The application process calls for VAWA requirements to be met so that tribes can begin practice of the law earlier than the enactment date. MCN District Court Judge Gregory Bigler believes that the Pilot Project will benefit the DOJ and the participating tribes by identifying problems early on. “We know this is going to be challenged, either in our courts, through our actions or another tribe’s actions. So, we want to make sure that everything is done correctly; figure out what the likely challenges will be and how we will address those prior

mean or require,” Bigler said. The definition may come up in the next few years after enactment of VAWA. Tribes across the nation have brainstormed ideas for establishing a jury pool to include non-Natives. Some include pulling jury members from county voter rolls. MCN is considering pulling jury members from tribal employees so that the juries will include non-Natives. Other than the jury pool, the tribe will also be going through the MCN Codes to make sure that implementation runs smoothly. Bigler and Harrison said that they may need to clarify some definitions, but the process is ongoing. The costs associated with implementation have also been discussed. With VAWA, the tribe would be responsible for costs including incarceration and healthcare of inmates. Bigler said that the tribe has understood that there is a price of being sovereign and that they are currently reviewing information regarding the costs associated with the act. Participating in the Pilot Project is important to Harrison because it will allow the tribe to be prepared for the enactment. “The main thing, for me, is to be able to implement prior to the 2015 deadline. And in addition to doing that, having the best practices that we can have with the collaboration of other tribes,” Harrison said.

**"WE KNOW THIS IS GOING TO BE CHALLENGED EITHER IN OUR COURTS, THROUGH OUR ACTIONS OR ANOTHER TRIBES ACTIONS."**

**-MCN DISTRICT COURT JUDGE GREGORY BIGLER**

to them occurring,” Bigler said. MCN plans to apply for phase two of the Pilot Project, according to Harrison. MCN has already implemented some of the VAWA requirements including providing VAWA defense attorneys, law-trained judges, published laws and establishing a recording process. One obstacle that the tribe faces is that the current jury pool only includes tribal citizens. However, with the enactment of VAWA, a jury will have to be provided from the community. “VAWA requires that you not systematically exclude any member of your community. They don’t define what your community is so that there are different ideas on what they may

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COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cute an agreement for work on department property with the Oklahoma State Department of Transportation for construction improvements on State Highway Loop 56. Rep. Eddie LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-141 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Bacone College for the maintenance of roadway improvements located at Bacone College. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-142 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract between owner and contractor with Foster & Glover Paving Inc. for roadway improvements for the Bacone College Streets Project. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-143 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Indian Health Service, Okmulgee County Rural Water District No. 7 and MCN to provide assistance in upgrading the Nuyaka Water Distribution and Pressure Systems to provide satisfactory domestic water supply for Indian-owned homes. Reps. David Nichols and LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-144 Confirming the nomination of Michael Flud to serve on the College of the Muscogee Nation Board of Regents. Rep. Keeper Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-145 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a clinical rotation agreement between the MCN and Central Technology Center for the purpose of allowing pharmacy technician students an opportunity to complete clinical rotation experience at the Sapulpa Indian Health facility. Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.
- TR 13-146 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a real estate contract for the purchase of property located in Okfuskee County. Rep. Lena Wind sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-1 with Rep. Kara Medina voting against it.

- TR 13-147 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Wainwright Public Schools. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-148 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a local Head Start agreement with Glenpool Public Schools. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-149 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement for use of space with Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology for the use of Lackey Hall. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-150 Authorizing healthcare services provided under the compact of self-governance between the MCN and the U.S. to be provided to non-Indian health services eligible beneficiaries on a fee-for-service basis at all MCN healthcare facilities. Greene sponsored the resolu-



A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Oct. 26 at the MCN Mound Building. MNN/Kyla McKown

tion, which passed 17-0.

- TR 13-151 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a provider agreement with Caremark LLC and CaremarkPCS LLC to provide covered prescription services to members at MCN DOH pharmacies. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0. Thomas was excused from the session.

- TR 13-152 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an asset purchase agreement for the purchase of Lake Country Medical Equipment located in Okmulgee, Okla. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-154 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation and Seminole Nation for the purpose of promoting tribal tourism within the State of Oklahoma. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0. Rep. Thomas Yahola was excused from the session.

- TR 13-155 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an upgrade agreement on behalf of the Nation’s Judicial Branch with CitePayUSA LLC. Rep. Sam Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

- TR 13-156 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an upgrade agreement on behalf of the Nation’s Judicial Branch with FullCourt Enterprise. Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

- TR 13-157 Amending TR 13-067, a resolution of the MCN authorizing the principal chief to submit an Intermediary Re-lending Program loan application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide loan funds to eligible tribal citizens for business development that will be administered by the Mvskoke Loan Fund. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

- TR 13-158 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute Gaming Industry Tip Compliance Agreements with the Internal Revenue Service for each of the Nation’s casinos. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

- TR 13-161 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a request for change order with Maska Builders LLC for construction related to the

Dewar Community Center parking lot. Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

- TR 13-162 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an engagement letter with Fellers, Snider, Blankenship, Bailey & Tippen P.C. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-225 Repealing MCN Code Annotated Title 4, Sections 1-101 and 1-104 and creating the Tribal Burial Assistance and Food for Funeral Guidelines under MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 13. Greene sponsored the amendment, which was postponed until the Dec. 21 session.

- NCA 13-243 Amending NCA 12-161, a law of the MCN authorizing a donation to 4 Love of the Game LLC. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-244 Authorizing a \$4,500 donation to the Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-245 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,550 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Wind sponsored the amendment, which failed 8-7. The legislation required a two-thirds majority vote to pass pursuant to NCA 10-032 amending MCNCA Title 35, which pertains to social services/public assistance. The amendment was voted on 8-7 and failed with Reps. Pete Beaver, Frank Coachman, Barnett, Hill, Hufft, Johnson and Nichols voting against it.

- NCA 13-247 Authorizing the expenditure of \$484,853 from the DOH and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Grant Program to the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program. Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-248 Authorizing the principal chief to expend \$1.25 million of the housing program’s income for the transport and setup of 50 housing and urban development compliant mobile homes. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-249 Amending NCA 13-197, a law of the MCN authorizing a donation for the 17th annual Euchee Heritage Festival. LaGrone and Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-

0.

- NCA 13-250 Appropriating \$122,000 to be used toward the purchase of real property located in Okfuskee County. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Medina voting against it.

- NCA 13-251 Amending NCA 13-180, a law of the MCN appropriating funds for the purchase of real property located in Oklahoma County. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-252 Amending MCNCA Title 18, Section 1-102 entitled, “Administration of Programs” and creating a new Title 18, Section 1-104 entitled, “Advanced Placement Test Incentive” for the Johnson O’Malley Program to assist Muscogee (Creek) high school students with costs associated with advanced placement testing fees. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-254 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$80,000 to the Environmental Services — 2014 Fiscal Year Budget. Reps. Mark Randolph and Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-255 Authorizing and appropriation of \$50,000 to the MCN Johnson O’Malley — Advanced Placement Test Incentive Program. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-256 Authorizing a \$1,800 donation to Hanna Public Schools. Proctor, Jones, Thomas and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-257 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$1,319.60 to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-4 with Hill, Barnett, Hufft and Johnson voting against it.

- NCA 13-258 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$1,500 to three Muscogee (Creek) youth. Ade, Medina, Thomas and Wind sponsored the amendment, which required two-thirds majority vote, failed 11-4 with Greene, Hill, Johnson and Barnett voting against it. Barnett motioned to change the amount to \$500 per youth in order for the two-thirds vote requirement, pursuant to NCA 10-032, to not be used. The motion to reconsider passed and the amendment passed 14-0.

- NCA 13-259 Autho-

rizing a special appropriation of \$407,772 to the Checotah Indian Community. Jones, Wind and Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Nichols voting against it.

- NCA 13-261 Appropriating \$335,200 to be used toward the purchase of the business assets and operation of Lake Country Medical Equipment located in Okmulgee County. For consulting agreement regarding the management and operation of Lake Country Medical Equipment and for the lease of the building in which business operations of Lake Country Medical Equipment is located. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 13-262 Appropriating \$750,000 to establish a literacy program for the MCN to be administered by the Department of Education and Training. Medina and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0. Medina was excused from the session.

- NCA 13-263 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$10,610 to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which failed 5-9. The legislation required a two-thirds majority vote to pass pursuant to NCA 10-032. Following the initial vote, a motion to postpone the legislation until the Dec. 21 session was passed.

- NCA 13-264 Authorizing a \$70,000 donation to Beggs Rural Fire Association. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

- NCA 13-266 Creating new law in Title 43, titled “Oil and Gas.” LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0. According to section three of the full legislation, ‘The purpose of this act is to authorize and implement the MCN Oil and Gas Department...’ and section four states, ‘the sum of \$249,487 is herby appropriated...for the implementation of this act.’

- NCA 13-267 Appropriating \$2.5 million for the purchase of two compressed natural gas stations to be used for economic development and generation revue as part of the Nation’s long-term development, energy infrastructure expansion and alternative energy goals. Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.

- NCA 13-270 Authorizing a \$1,000 donation to Angels Above Inc. to assist with providing scholarships, support and substance abuse education for Native youth and families. Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.

- NCA 13-273 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$41,062.07 for a sponsorship and advertising opportunity with the Tulsa Revolution professional soccer team. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 8-6 with Johnson, Nichols, Proctor, Randolph, Beaver and Greene voting against it.

- NCA 13-275 Amending NCA 13-126, a law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation to Glenpool Creek Indian Community to assist with operating expenses as amended by NCA 13-166. Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 17-0.



## Citizen named principal of largest OKC school



**Submission**  
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Clay Vinyard, principal at U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma City, wants to add Native American culture and tradition into his school.

### Vinyard helps oversee performance turnaround of facility

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Clay Vinyard has been named principal at U.S. Grant High School, which is the largest high school in the Oklahoma City Public School District.

Vinyard’s mom is a full-blood Muscogee (Creek). He grew up in the urban area of Oklahoma City and said he believes being a Native American in a metro area is hard to attach to your cultural roots.

“If you’re an Indian in the inner city, we’re kind of like the silent minority,” Vinyard said. “I say a silent minority because we gravitate toward whatever culture is dominant in the area.”

Vinyard’s mission as principal is to not only connect the Native American students with their culture and traditions, but also to continue to raise the letter grade of the school.

“Part of my excitement, three years ago, this school was an F school,” Vinyard said. “And each year it has raised... from a C last year to now a B-plus. I’ve been the assistant principal and I’ve seen and heard of leader-

ship and good things happening here. I knew it was a good place to work.”

Vinyard said because U.S. Grant is the biggest high school in the district, it does have the largest number of Native American students.

He believes that because of being a Native American kid in the city, there is a lack of interaction with other Indian students so he wants to bring the traditions to the school events. Some of those students are Muscogee (Creek) as well.

Vinyard has volunteered for U.S. Grant to host the 7th Annual OKCPS Powwow Nov. 15-16.

OKCPS also has a growing Native American Student Services program that is working with Vinyard for the upcoming powwow.

Native American Student Services Administrator Star Yellowfish looks forward to seeing the success of not only the school, but Vinyard as well.

“Clay is a great role model,” Yellowfish said. “He’s an example of a product of the urban area and what kids are capable of doing if they wanted to be in education. He’s a member of Creek Nation but also first to tell you he didn’t really grow up with his cultural side. He’s an example of what our students come from.”

### MCN Reintegration submission



### Program sponsors art contest to raise money for clients

BOLEY, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program recently sponsored an art contest held at the John H. Lilley Correctional Facility located in Boley.

All inmates housed at John H. Lilley were invited to join the art competition and all of the art entered was judged by the correctional staff and various volunteers. In addition to the facility rewarding the winners overall, the Reintegration Pro-

gram generously rewarded the winners whose art reflected the creativity and skills which were of a Native American theme. Four members of the Reintegration team judged the art in the drawing and craft categories. In each of those categories \$100 was given for first place, second place received \$75 and third place was given \$50, which they could use at the canteen.

All of the art submitted for judging in the Native American category was donated to the Reintegration Program and will be used to help raise money for those in the program and their families in need.

## Yuchi Language Project holds first Fall Indian Market

### Project wants to show culture through market

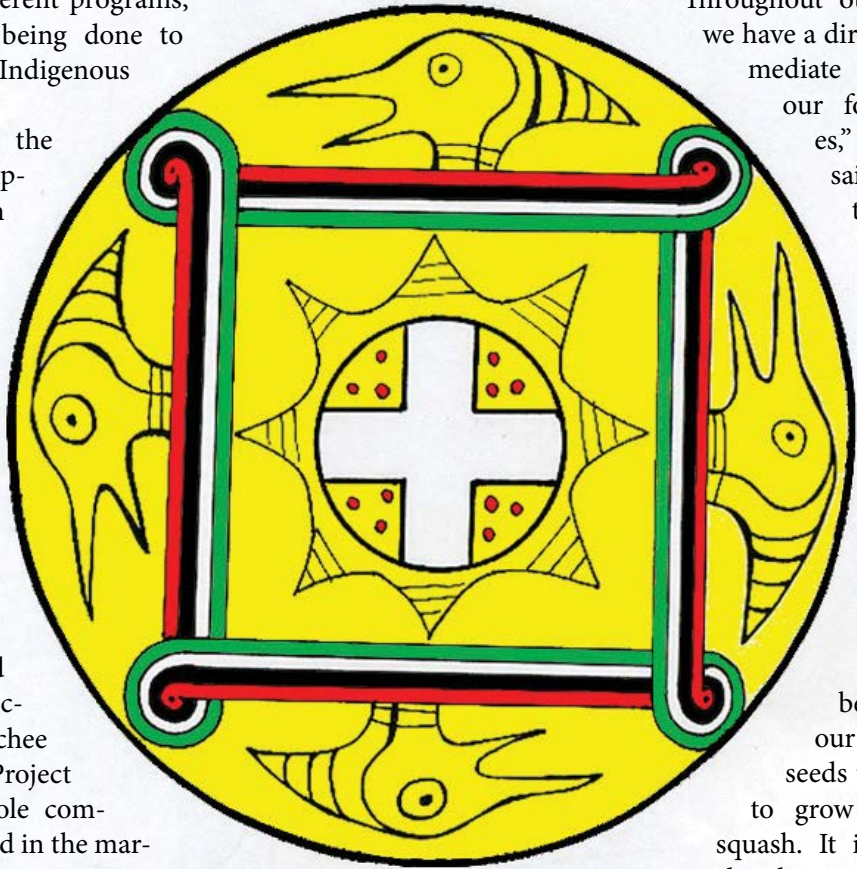
Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

SAPULPA, Okla. — The Yuchi/Euchee Language Project is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that is working to revitalize the Euchee language by helping to create new fluent speakers.

Through different programs, everything is being done to help keep this Indigenous language alive.

One way the project is helping, is through events like the first annual Fall Indian Market on Nov. 9. at the Euchee Language Project location on 1010 S. Main in Sapulpa.

Richard Grounds, Director for the Euchee Language Project wants the whole community involved in the market.



everyone here. It can benefit not only the person that will sell the produce but also the consumer when they see that the product is better than what the super-market brings to sell.”

The Fall Indian Market brought produce from local farmers in Sapulpa and surrounding communities as well as Native American arts and crafts, traditional foods demonstrations, clothing and jewelry from artists

are able to help sustain a culture and identity that has been thriving and will continue to thrive; one way is through cultural foods.

Grounds feels that by showing what foods are being produced and grown from local farmers and gardeners, that will be able to inspire more people to try more organic foods and possibly be able to start their own gardening with the traditional foods.

“Throughout our country, we have a direct and immediate threat to our food sources,” Grounds said. “With the process foods here that we have today, it is an unhealthy lifestyle that we are living. With this market, we will be to show our type of seeds that is used to grow corn and squash. It is not processed and it is more healthy for everyone.”

Grounds and Hill want the public to be able to see and recognize the rich culture that the Euchee tribe has. They also want to be able to remind not only themselves but everyone in Sapulpa and throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation about what the Euchee have been doing to preserve their culture.

“Our culture is still alive,” Grounds said. “It is still going strong...We can pass that on to everyone here and to our younger generation and that is how we keep our culture alive.”

throughout the state.

Amy Hill, Office Manager for the Euchee Language Project spoke on the other events that will be took place at the market.

“We will be having different vendors out here selling their jewelry and traditional clothing as well as arts and crafts for the youth,” Hill said. “We just want the people here to see our culture.”

The Euchee Language Project, through the Fall Indian Market, wants people to understand that with everyone coming together to help with this market, they

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## MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZENS

Our goal at Muscogee Creek Nation is to provide Muscogee (Creek) citizens with job opportunities and a successful career path.

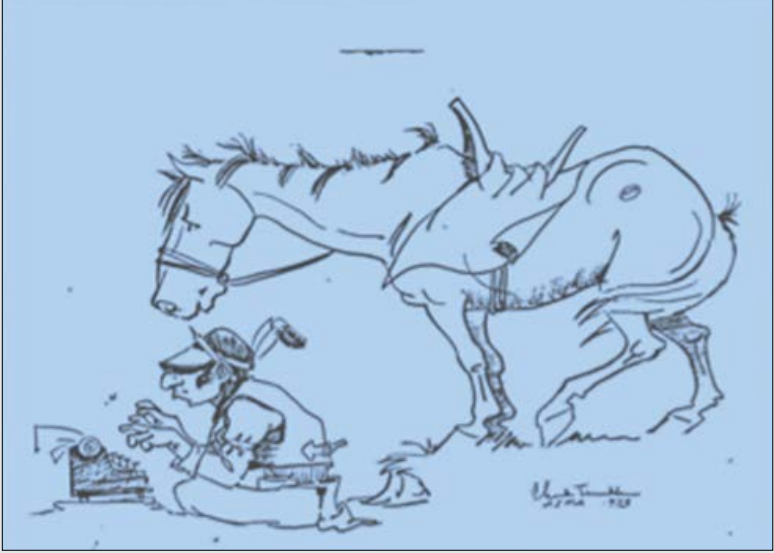
MCNC Recruitment Professionals are available to assist Muscogee (Creek) citizens in completing applications, interview skills, and job placement assistance. Please contact Lou Hernandez at (918) 995- 8371 for any questions. Muscogee (Creek) citizens are encouraged to visit the Human Resources Department on Thursdays from 9 am – 3 pm to interview for open positions. Please complete the online application at [www.creekcasinjobs.com](http://www.creekcasinjobs.com) in advance if possible. Please bring your Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship card or a CDIB card to the meeting.



Successful candidates must be able to obtain and maintain a gaming license issued by the Office of Public Gaming. A background investigation is required. Native-American preference is a policy and practice in recruitment, hiring, advancement, and retention.

## Emvpanyv:

### 'One who tells a story'



### Lots of proclamations, veterans numbers, Mvskoke elections and persistence pays

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For 2013, there’s the president’s, the governor’s, the principal chief’s and the Okmulgee mayor’s proclamations declaring the month of November (Ehole—Frost Month) as National Native American Heritage Month.

Here’s an excerpt from the White House: “When the Framers gathered to write the United States Constitution, they drew inspiration from the Iroquois Confederacy, and in the centuries since, American Indians and Alaska Natives from hundreds of tribes have shaped our national life. During Native American Heritage Month, we honor their vibrant cultures and strengthen the government-to-government relationship between the United States and each tribal nation.”

There’s more: “NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America...do hereby proclaim November 2013 as National Native American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 29, 2013, (my emphasis) as Native American Heritage Day.”

Remember, we get a whole month to conduct whatever celebrations we come up with, instead of a national holiday like Columbus Day. Nov. 29 is the last day of the month, if you notice.

I’d say one of the appropriate things we’re already doing is taking off Monday, Nov. 18, as we celebrate our own Native American Day, instead of Columbus Day.

Another significant day celebrated this month is Veterans Day, Nov. 11. There’s another worthwhile occasion. All honors and recognition to all those who have served. I include those who fought for their country even before we became a part of this one.

Many times speakers have cited the numbers of Native people who have served in the military.

The U.S. Census Bureau has actually issued a survey of the numbers of minorities that have been in the U.S. military. Here’s what it says:

“11.3 percent of black veterans in 2012. Additionally, 5.7 percent were Hispanic; 1.3 percent were Asian; 0.8 percent were American Indian or Alaska Native (again, emphasis here is from yours truly); 0.2 percent were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; and 79.6

percent were non-Hispanic white. (The numbers for blacks, Asians, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders and non-Hispanic whites cover only those reporting a single race.)

The 2010 census says those identifying themselves, as Native American are 1.2 percent of the total population. Again, that is those who used only a single race alone. No telling how many used a mixed race tag.

Still, that’s a lot of ‘Indins’ in uniform. Thanks to all of them.

More from Disneyland-On-The-Potomac: This year’s national Christmas tree is coming from the lands of the Kalispel people of Washington (the other one!). The tree was cut from the Colville National Forest, the original home of the Kalispel people.

The spruce was cut down with appropriate, private tribal ceremony and blessing. It’s now headed for the National Mall where it will be on display for the holiday season.

Closer to home: the November run-off elections are over. This year several incumbent National Council members were defeated in their bids for re-election. This will change the make-up of the council and will probably make council meetings a bit livelier.

It’s going to be interesting to see how much and what kinds of legislation are tackled before the new council members are sworn in.

Reps. Eddie LaGrone, and Keeper Johnson were defeated in the September primary election. Sam Alexander, Lena Wind and Pearl Thomas lost in the run-off.

Mitch Jack, James Jennings, Joyce Deere and Lucian Tiger III will be the new faces sworn in at the January 2014 meeting.

Lawzee and Huzza! I knew persistence would pay off.

I got a chance to chat with the principal chief and he told me the purchase price of the Council House artifacts collection was \$225,000. Thank you sir, that made this reporter’s day. I take back my ‘dag-nab it,’ from the last column.

For over a thousand items, that comes to about \$2.25 per item, or so. Not too bad, folks.

But, actually, that collection is priceless, considering how it might have ended up.

By the way, in the last language column I wrote, I misspelled the Mvskoke word for stinky: fumbe should have been fvmpe. Either way, the results are the same.

I guess I ought to pay more attention in class, huh?

- Hvtvm Cehecares ‘I will see you again’



## MCN TANF guides participants toward independence



Shutterstock  
The mission of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is not only to assist families but also to break the dependency on government assistance.

### Children learn importance of planning for future

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The mission of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is not only to assist families but also to break the dependency on government assistance.

MCN TANF is 100 percent federally-funded and provides assistance to eligible adults and children.

The Subsidized Employment Program for MCN TANF went into effect Oct. 1. Through this program, employers can be reimbursed for hiring a participant 100 percent for the first three months of employment and 50 percent for the second three months.

According to Tolissa Autry, MCN TANF Community Resource Coordinator, 15 employers have expressed interest in partnering with MCN TANF for the Subsidized Employment Program.

Autry assists TANF partici-

cuss opportunities for program participants. Autry also encourages participants to complete an application for the MCN Tribal Employment Rights Office job bank and to search for volunteer opportunities.

“Volunteering is so beneficial... that’s one thing that we really encourage,” Autry said.

Autry said that the program has benefitted many participants.

“I attended this job fair in September. I met this employer and I was really impressed with the jobs that they had available... all three of the participants got jobs,” Autry said.

Even the children of TANF participants can benefit from the Youth Programs offered. Through the program, children can earn rewards and receive financial assistance for extra curricular activities including athletic and special interest programs.

Erin Saltsman, MCN TANF Youth Programs Coordinator, will direct participants to other programs that may benefit the children. If the children do not qualify for the MCN School Clothing or Johnson-O’Malley programs, TANF Youth Program will provide additional

**“IT’S BASICALLY TO GET THEM TO START THINKING ABOUT GOALS IN GENERAL, WHETHER IT’S EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER OR JUST TO START THINKING ABOUT THE BIGGER PICTURE AFTER SCHOOL.”**

**—ERIN SALTSMAN, MCN TANF YOUTH PROGRAMS COORDINATOR**

pants who are ready to enter the working world and have transportation and child care arrangements. Participants learn interview, résumé and employment skills that assist them in finding and maintaining a job so that they can break the cycle of dependency.

Autry develops strategic relationships and networking with employers and organizations from which participant can receive experience. Autry encourages recommendations from participants of jobs they would enjoy.

According to Autry, TANF has relationships with 102 companies and organizations for work experience opportunities.

“It helps them to develop a skill or maybe enhance their current skills... hopefully it can be a shoe in the door to that specific company if they do really well,” Autry said.

Autry attends job fairs and reaches out to employers to dis-

assistance to prevent children from falling through the cracks.

The Youth Program verifies that children are enrolled in school and requires participants to submit report cards twice per year. Incentives are given to the children for grades, perfect attendance and graduation.

Saltsman tries to break the generational dependency on government assistance with youth by offering guidance in setting goals and helping to plan educational and career objectives with the youth.

“It’s basically to get them to start thinking about goals in general, whether it’s educational or career or just to start thinking about the bigger picture after school,” Saltsman said.

For more information on MCN TANF services contact: 918-732-7985 or visit the MCN website at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov).

## Food assistance program survives federal cutback



MNN/Sterling Cosper  
A mural by Muscogee (Creek) artist Mary Howard at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Center in Okmulgee, Okla.

### MCN program has advantages over federal SNAP

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For most American families who depend on federal food assistance, they will have to feed their families on about \$36 less per month.

Federal cutbacks to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs went into effect Nov. 1 reducing the amount of support that needy families would receive. The Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture administers SNAP.

A brochure from the National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations reports the average monthly participation for Native Americans in 2011 was 77,827 individuals.

But for those who qualify for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program, they will see no cuts to the amount of food they take home.

Because of the recent federal shutdown and new federal budgetary reductions, the MCN program has taken on some of the load for the federal program, according to Program Manager Anna Wright, Program Manager and Certification Supervisor Anita Lowe. 150 families are now coming to the tribal program for food assistance since the federal shutdown, Wright said.

It’s important to know the difference in the two programs, Wright said. SNAP through the Department of Human Services, provides a guaranteed amount based on the number of members in your household and a families total income.

“The cut on top of that would affect what they’re already getting. Where, with our program, if you’re a family of four, you’re going to receive the same amount of food no matter if your income is ‘x’ amount or ‘y’ amount,” Wright said.

With many federal employees being furloughed and losing incomes, they became eligible for the MCN program.

Wright said they have seen an increase.

“We have seen a slight increase so far, mainly I would believe, due to the shutdown when people were on furlough. You know, there was quite a scare and urgency to be on a program that was going to have food available, Wright said.

Through the shutdown, SNAP was approved to carry on for 30 days, she said.

“So, as long as the tribe was willing to pay our salaries,” Wright added, “the workers here, the administrative part, we were able to hand out food as long as it was available. So that is another benefit of being on our program,” Wright said.

Lowe explained the approval process for those seeking assistance.

“We certify households that come in to apply for our program. We do our verification checks on them and then, if they’re eligible, they’ll pick up food the same day they’re here. So there’s no waiting with us, if you’re eligible you get on the same day,” Lowe said.

Wright said the federal program might have a waiting period of up to 30 days. The amounts allocated for those families are not known until they actually receive their eligibility card.

Although the MCN program usually serves the elderly, those with fixed, limited or no incomes, Lowe said they have seen changes in the families coming to them for help.

“We have people that have two incomes that can qualify now because we have a shelter and utility deduction. If they bring in a current utility bill, we can deduct \$300 off their income. So more people are coming in as families with both incomes now and being able to qualify,” Lowe said.

Due to the federal shutdown, some families new to the program come from IHS, where their employment is required, but they may or may not be receiving timely paychecks Wright said.

“We have both learned that through the Indian Health Service facilities and anytime you’re in a medical field, they’re required to work, but

they’re not getting paid. So, we were like, ‘how are they working and not getting paid?’ but in the medical field that’s how they do it. So, they were the ones that were really calling,” she added.

A side effect of the federal shutdown was to temporarily halt the distribution of fresh produce as it is purchased on a weekly basis and cannot be stockpiled.

The future for U.S Department of Agriculture support of the foods programs is secure until mid-January 2014, when the Congressional funding measure for the federal government runs out.

Lowe said that will be reassuring to MCN tribal families planning for the upcoming holidays and according to Lowe, there will be something special for their clients — a bonus ham and cranberry sauce.

Those will be three-pound hams and are distributed on a one-per-person basis in the family, up to five.

Another bonus on top of the extra ham, is a recipe collection booklet that Lowe has assembled. The recipes include foods distributed by the MCN program and will be paired with a set of spices as a special gift.

The U.S. Congress and the president are still battling over the federal government’s budget, leaving federal programs with an uncertain future.

Wright predicted that the MCN program would most likely see additional families coming to them for assistance.

“From what I’ve read, this isn’t going to be the last of the cuts for SNAP,” she said.

Lowe said she agrees but feels the new clients might be in for a pleasant surprise.

“I can also see our numbers growing, only because people that come from food stamps to try and get on our program, they didn’t know we offer as much as we do. They didn’t know we had the fresh produce, so when they know they can come in here and apply and get the food the same day, that’s the choice, that they’d rather get the food the same day and not have to wait 30 days to get their food.”



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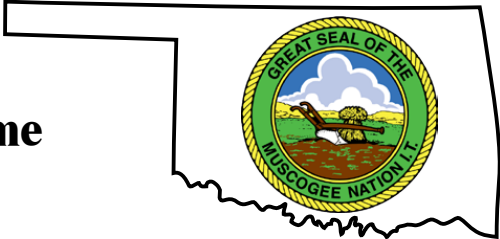
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# 2013 MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION NATIONAL COUNCIL SEAT B REPRESENTATIVE ELECTS

## Dode Barnett

### National Council - Creek District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Hitchiti  
**Church:** Salt Creek United Methodist Church  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka  
**Education:** 1989 Graduate of Sapulpa High School/  
Attended Drury University from 1989-1991



**Platform:** It has been a privilege to serve the Creek District of our great Nation this past year. I have learned a great deal. Eldercare, education, healthcare, language and cultural preservation (including continuing to support Hickory Ground), housing and the Nation making better financial investments are at the top of my list.

**Goals:**  
Ask for better planning of Council spending, perhaps on a quarterly basis, build and diversify PROFITABLE businesses to increase the money available for tribal programs, seek to improve and simplify application process for tribal programs, work to foster development of a state approved Mvskoke language curriculum, continue to protect Mvskoke churches and ceremonial grounds and improve the grievance process for employees of tribal casinos.

If you have further questions email dbarnett@mcn-nsn.gov or call 918-752-7959. Mvto!

## Mitch Jack

### National Council - Okfuskee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Konovlke (Skunk)  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Alypamv Mososwa (Alabama)



**Experience:** Dustin High School, College of the Muscogee Nation

**Platform:** I am dedicated to the care and responsibility to all generations of the Mvskoke people. Living in two worlds allows me to see the different needs of traditional & non-traditional citizens of the tribe. Being bilingual allows me the opportunity to communicate with our elders.

I would like to focus on economic growth and development, health care, elder and youth outreach, tribal youth council for our children, etc. I feel that this is a full-time job and will be solely focused on working with and listening to the concerns of the Mvskoke people. I value everyone's input to strengthen our Nation.  
Mvto!

## Adam Jones III

### National Council - McIntosh District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Coweta  
**Church:** Little Coweta Indian Baptist Church  
**Family:** My wife is Amanda Jones and we have five children: Christian, Jordan, Adam, Abigail and Elijah. We live in Stidham, Okla. My parents are Adam Jones Jr. and Mary Jane Jones of Stidham.



**Experience:** I have had the privilege of representing our citizens for the last six years. I truly work hard for our Nation to seek new economic development, jobs and diversity.

**Platform:** My goals as a representative are to find new opportunities. I believe we have new opportunities ahead with the new partnerships, Willowheart. They do 8A work in the construction field. We have been stagnate for too long. Other tribes have 8A contracts from millions to hundreds of millions. This will create many jobs and dollars that we need as a Nation. This is what we need, to help with programs as our Nation grows. I will also strive to help our health system get better and faster. We are looking to build a new hospital and clinic for our citizens. It has been a long time coming for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to excel and flourish! Our time is now!

## Mark Randolph

### National Council - Wagoner, Mayes, Rogers District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Fuswv  
**Tribal Town:** Nuyakv  
**Church:** New Joy Church



**Education/Experience:** Associates of Arts - Haskell Indian Nations University, Bachelors in Social Work - University of Kansas, Masters in Social Work - University of Kansas

It is a great honor to serve as a National Council representative for the last 14 months. I have 100% attendance for Council Meetings/Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meetings. I sit on several committees and continue to serve as an agent of positive change for the great Mvskoke (Creek) Nation. I will continue to serve all citizens of all ages inside and outside our boundaries. I believe in the strengths perspective and empowerment. Our people are our greatest asset and prayer is our greatest strength.



Mvskoke Media/Christina Good Voice  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen George Coser votes at the Glenpool Indian Community Center polls Nov. 2 during the MCN National Council Seat B General Election.

<b>Official Nov. 2, 2013 General Election results</b>	<b>Okmulgee District:</b>
	James Jennings: 1307 - 58.35 percent
	Pearl Thomas: 933 - 41.65 percent
	<b>Tulsa District:</b>
	Samuel Alexander: 941 - 42.05 percent
<b>The 2013 National Council Seat B representative elects will be sworn in Jan. 4, 2014.</b>	Lucian Tiger III: 1297 - 57.95 percent
	<b>Okfuskee District:</b>
	Mitch Jack: 1189 - 52.82 percent
<b>On this day, the Council will also vote for the speaker, second speaker and sergeant at arms positions.</b>	Lena Wind: 1062 - 47.18 percent

## Joyce Deere

### National Council - Muskogee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Kvssetv  
**Church:** Fife Indian United Methodist Church  
**Family:** Her parents are Napoleon B. Moore and Narcissa Wilson. She is the mother of Mark, Acee, and Taryn Allen; and Nana to Robert, Bailee, Sarah, and Blayne Allen and Joseph Shoemake. She was married for 19 years to the late Lyle K. Deere.



**Experience:** She is a leader in her local church and has served the United Methodist Women of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church as President, Secretary, and Social Action Coordinator and as a Member of the Committee on Nominations on the South Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team for UMW. She currently serves on the OIMC Council for Local Church Ministries. She retired from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, with 39 1/2 years of service. Her work experience includes positions in Tribal Government Services, the Office of Self-Determination Services, Real Estate Services and as staff assistant to the regional director for the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office. She is an active member of the Muscogee Indian Community, serving as the chair of the Activities and Cultural Committee, and also as a sponsor/advisor for the Explorer Program of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse.

**Platform:** Joyce is willing and able to continue a life of service. As a civil servant with the Federal Government, she was fortunate to work with and for our Indian people. Her career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs has provided her with the education and experience needed to continue helping Indian people, in particular, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. As a representative of the National Council, she will be a proponent of fiscal control, economic development and delivery of services; an advocate for preservation of our language, culture, traditional churches and ceremonial grounds; and she will uphold the Constitution and defend our status as a sovereign Nation.  
Mvto!

## James Jennings

### National Council - Okmulgee District

**Seat:** B  
**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka  
**Church:** Second Baptist Church, Okmulgee  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka  
**Family:** I am one-half Creek, son of the late Pearlline Day, Married to wife, Joyce for 45 years. We have three sons and five grandchildren. Resident of Okmulgee for 35 years.



**Education:** Graduate from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. U.S. Army Veteran-Military policeman from 1967-1970 with an honorable discharge. Recently retired from Southern Millwork after 42 years employment as a master cabinetmaker. National Council from 2006-2011. Served on Human Development Committee, Fact-finding Committee, Internal Affairs Committee, ExAffico Board of Regents of the College of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Missed one meeting during this period of service to the Nation.

**Platform:** 1. Educational opportunities: Higher Education, Vo-Tech, on the job training. 2. Seniors: health issues, housing, special needs. 3. Preserve our language and culture, protect our sovereignty. 4. Positive atmosphere so the Nation can move forward as a whole.



Lucian Tiger III

National Council - Tulsa District

Seat: B  
Clan: Wind

**Education/Experience:** I am a graduate of Kellyville High School. I also attended Connors State College as well as Oklahoma State University.  
**Family:** I am the son of Lucian (Sonny) Tiger II, grandson of Jo Ella Tiger and Lucian Tiger, the great grandson of Lucinda (Allen) Tiger-Johnson and Porter Tiger.

**Platform:** I believe that in order for our Nation to continue moving forward we must project better returns on our investments and resources. Our Nation is growing through economic development. However, I believe that we also need to invest more into the programs that are already in place for our citizens.

We are a great Nation with great people and I believe that if we all work together and hold each other accountable as representatives anything is possible.

MVTO



Thomas Yahola

National Council - Tukvpvtce District

Seat: B  
Clan: Deer  
Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco  
Church: Montesuma  
Ceremonial Ground: Tahlahvse

**Education/Experience:** Wetumka High School, Bacone College, Northeastern State University, Retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Tulsa District, multiple terms with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, speaker of the National Council for two terms and second speaker for one, National Council chairman of the Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee and Human Development.

**Platform:** Experience Counts: It has been my honor to serve for “Service for the Betterment of the Nation.” This has been evident by regular attendance at local community meetings, assigned committees and National Council meetings. Also, meeting with citizens on issues and working with the Executive Branch. Some noted accomplishments: Sponsored legislation for water line services to Little Wewoka Methodist Church and the town of Dustin, Okla.

Also, sponsored legislation for the present Southern Regional Office, which provides various tribal services, the establishment of the Food Distribution Center and SIP Plant.



OBITUARIES

ANNIE MAE BARNETT



SAPULPA, Okla. — Annie was born Dec. 7, 1918 on the family farm in Sapulpa to Thomas and Nellie Ann (Brazier) Barnett. She was a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Annie’s maternal grandmother was Mary Barnett Tate and her maternal great-grandmother was Teoshkie Barnett. Growing up in Sapulpa, she enjoyed playing basketball in school.

She moved to Kansas City and married the love of her life; Robert L. Copeland June 6, 1937 and they shared 71 years of marriage before he was taken to be with Jesus. They brought six children into this world. Anna was a member of Mt. Carmel COGIC and was part of the Mother’s Board, served as a Sunday school teacher, was president of the state and a member of National Hospitality and the Deacon’s Wives Circle. Anna worked and retired from the University of Kansas Medical Center as a food service supervisor and also took care of her home and family. She was a writer of poetry, children’s books, plays and a book for excerpts of her life was published.

Anna also received her Master Teacher Certificate from the Charles Harrison Mason System of Bible Colleges.

Anna was preceded in death by: her parents Thomas and Nellie Barnett, husband Deacon Robert L. Copeland, daughter Loretta Matthews and five brothers, Bates, Bert, John, Bill and Stafford Barnett.

She is survived by: her children Gloria (Albert) Hobson, Shirley (Vermine) Matthews, Julie (Hylton) Turner, Ronald (Deborah Alesia) Copeland and R. Michael (Deborah Ann) Copeland; son-in-law, Melvin Matthews; brother, Willie Barnett of Sapulpa, 13 grandchildren, 30

great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren as well as a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

JERI CULLEY



TULSA, Okla. — Jeri Lynn Culley was born June 6, 1982 in Ada, Oklahoma to Farron and Irene Culley of Mason. Jeri spent her childhood years attending Mason School where she excelled in the classroom and sports. Jeri loved to play basketball and softball and won many awards including making the Oklahoma all-state basketball team. After high school she became the proud mother of Kaelyn and continued her education at Seminole State College where she graduated and played basketball on scholarship for the SSC Belles. After graduation from SSC she welcomed her second baby girl Jadyne and began working for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office where she was employed for many years. In 2009, she welcomed and spoiled her baby boy Jaryn and continued working for the MCN in the Housing Division as a counselor. In June 2011 she started dating Isaac Simpson of Holdenville and became his fiancée in March 2012. She went back to school in August 2012 at East Central University in Ada, Okla., to pursue another degree until she was diagnosed with stomach cancer on Nov. 1, 2012.

Jeri loved raising her children and watching them excel at whatever they did. Jeri especially loved home life and cooking as well as getting to teach and coach her children in sports. Jeri was a very good cook. She liked being with family and friends at get-togethers and stompdances. She was also an avid sports enthusiast who loved playing basketball, softball and watching University of Oklahoma football. She also loved being at the fair, eating

Krispy Kreme doughnuts and peanut butter on her pancakes. She always kept everyone smiling and laughing with her sense of humor and big smile.

Jeri is preceded in death by: her father Farron J. Culley, paternal grandfather Paul Culley and maternal grandparents Amos and Juanita Harjochee.

She is survived by: her mother Irene Culley of Okemah, Okla., daughters Kaelyn and Jayden Roberts of Okmulgee, Okla., son Jaryn Culley of Okmulgee, fiancé Isaac Simpson of Holdenville, Okla., sisters Melissa Culley of Okmulgee, Lela Culley and Darin Mack of Okemah, Okla., Talia Culley and Corey King of Holdenville, brother Brian Culley and Megan Robison of Okemah, three nieces, four nephews, paternal grandmother Lorene Culley of Wetumka, Okla., and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who all knew and loved her very much.

Services were held at Mason High School on Oct. 14, 2013 under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home.

Pallbearers are: Warren Quenton, Andy ‘Boots’ Proctor, Eric York, Silas Baker, David ‘DJ’ Wilson, Tony Lee, Newman ‘Wolfe’ Phillips Jr. and Joshua Simpson.

Honorary Pallbearers are: MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett, Mark Pendergrass, Haskell Alexander and Thomas ‘Hobia’ Mack.

Jeri was called home to be with the Lord Oct. 10 in Tulsa after her long and courageous battle with stomach cancer. She is loved by many and will be forever missed.

CLAUDIE FIELDS



HENRYETTA, Okla. — Claudie Lee Fields a resident of Henryetta passed away Sept. 12, 2013 in Henryetta at the age of 80. Claudie was born Aug.

9, 1933 in Henryetta to Major and Molly Fields. He was a bus driver and a member of Hickory Ground #2.

He is preceded in death by: his parents; brothers Buster Bear and Art Fields and sister Alice Lewis.

He is survived by: wife Alice Fields of the home, children Clara Jacobs of Henryetta, Katherine Taylor of Henryetta, George Fields of Henryetta, Josie Tiger of Holdenville, Carol Davis of Hanna, Peggy Martin of Okmulgee, 15 Grandchildren, 17 great-great-grandchildren and sisters Liza Harjo of Konawa and Annie Harjo of Okmulgee.

The family would also like to add a special Thank you to those who sent flowers and food during this time.

-Fields Family

MARTHA FOX



TULSA, Okla. — Martha Louise Wilson Fox, 83, of Sapulpa went to be with the Lord Oct. 3, 2013 at St. John Medical Center surrounded by family. Martha was born July 24, 1930 in Bixby, Okla., to Simon and Lydia Wilson. Martha graduated from Bixby High School in 1948.

She was married to Herbert Fox for almost 60 years until his passing in 2012. Martha was a lifelong member of Little Cussetah Baptist Church. She loved worshipping the Lord and singing Creek hymns. Martha worked at Bartlett Memorial Hospital for 28 years until retirement. She was an avid St. Louis Cardinal and OU football fan. Martha enjoyed watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren play sports.

Martha welcomed visitors with open arms and they never left with an empty stomach. She would always say, ‘if you leave hungry it’s your own fault’

She is survived by: sons Steve and wife Martha of Tulsa, Mark

and wife Sheila, David and Philip all of Sapulpa, Micah and wife Cynthia (Janie) of Glenpool, and Adam of Yukon; daughters; Stephanie Leaf of Claremore, Melinda of Sapulpa, Lu and husband Mike Columbus of Kiefer, 17 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Martha was preceded in death by: parents Simon and Lydia Wilson, husband Herbert Fox, son Roger Fox and sisters Juanita Wilson and Pauline Asbury.

The funeral service was held at Little Cussetah Oct. 7. Burial was at the Fox Family Cemetery in Hectorville, Okla.

Pallbearers are: Dylan Fox, Micah Roger Fox, Chris Leaf, Cub Columbus, Robert David Leaf, and Luke Columbus.

Honorary Bearers are: Anthony Columbus, Dordi Fox, Thomas Wolfe, Jordan Warrior, Tyies Warrior, Eric Williamson, Mike Chisholm, Mike Columbus and Wiley Washington.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Smith Funeral Home 1208 S. Main in Sapulpa, Okla.

The family of Martha Louise Wilson Fox would like to thank everyone for your acts of love and kindness during the loss of our mother. It will never be forgotten. A special thank you to Little Cussetah Baptist Church Sapulpa, Pastors Ray and Betty Samuels, Pastor Bart and Kellie Kelly, Pastor Jimmie Alexander, Principal Chief George Tiger and his staff, Second Chief Roger Barnett and his staff, Creek Nation Lighthorse Police, Creek Nation Tribal Roads, the Sapulpa Police Department, Creek Nation Social Services, Smith’s Funeral Home, and the doctors and staff at St. John’s Hospital Tulsa and Sapulpa.

- God Bless, from the Fox Family

JAMES JOHNSON





JOHNSON CONT.

OKLAHOMA CITY —James ‘Hob’ Johnson passed away Oct. 25, 2013 in Oklahoma City at the age of 37 with his wife of 22 years, Kristie by his side.

Hob was born Sept. 26, 1976 to Wayne ‘Sambo’ Johnson and Paula Culley Hill in Dallas, Texas.

As a child, Hob was gifted at pulling things apart but not necessarily putting them back together, like his tricycle. Late in life, this led him to go to school and pursue a career as what he would call, ‘a computer guy.’

Hob grew up and attended school in Wetumka, Okla., where he and Kristie first met and developed a long lasting relationship. A superior athlete, Hob was often recruited by coaches from other towns to play intramural ball with their teams.

During his high school years, Hob played football, basketball and baseball for Wetumka High School. He was starting quarterback for four straight years and led his to the State Quarter Finals in football his senior year.

Hob was also named to the All-State team his senior years as a defensive back.

After high school, he was offered a scholarship for baseball to Murray State in Tishimingo, but chose to attend Langston University to play football, his first passion.

He continued to root for the Chieftans long after he graduated.

He was also a strong OU fan, ready to talk stats with anyone who opposed the Sooner Nation.

Hob and Kristie went on to have three amazing children and were recently blessed with a beautiful granddaughter.

He spent his free time handing down his athletic ability and legacy to his sons and daughter. He never missed a practice or game, making sure his presence was know on any football field, baseball field, basketball court or soccer field.

He is survived by: wife Kristie, sons Jeremiah and Jacob, daughter Jordan and granddaughter Maci of the home in Elgin, Okla., son Marcus and daughters Mia and Paula of Oklahoma City, brothers Reuben Culley of Florida, Robert Johnson of Tulsa, sisters JoReta Hill of Wetumka, Anresa Hill of Shawnee and Bobbie Johnson of Tulsa, grandmother Lorene Culley of Wetumka, several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and several extended family members.

He was preceded in death by: father Sambo, mother Paula, nephew Reece Culley, niece Hydrie Tiger, stepfather J.D. Hill, grandfather Paul Culley, grandparents Ben Johnson and Alice Johnson, aunts Deborah Harjochee, Marie Johnson Reeder and Mary Ellen Roberts, Evelyn Screechowl and Shirley Talamassy. Uncles Farron Culley, Dennis Culley, Jimmie ‘Froggie’ Johnson and his son Jeri Culley.

Pallbearers are: Dave McGilbray, Charles ‘Peach’ Broncho, Harbor Harjochee, Jess Harjochee, Charles ‘Chumbi’ Screechowl and Jeay Harjochee.

Honorary pallbearers are: Van Johnson, Mose Daniel Lindsey and Mike O’Malley.

Services were at Salt Creek Baptist Church Oct. 29 in Wetumka with Rev. Robert Berryhill and J.B. Fish officiating. Internment at Salt Creek Baptist Cemetery under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home in Wetumka and Weleetka, Okla.

COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL EVENTS

MFSI 4-H OPEN HOUSE SET FOR NOV. 19

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A 4-H Open House is set for Nov. 19 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The event, hosted by The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, will be held at the MFSI Office at the corner of 7th and Grand in downtown Okmulgee.

Bring your children out to enjoy the activity centers, snacks and get to know the peer leaders. For more information or to RSVP contact MFSI at: 918-756-5915.

MCN OKC ASSOCIATION TO ISSUE NEW CITIZENSHIP CARDS NOV. 26

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office will be issuing the new tribal identification cards Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Oklahoma Muscogee (Creek) Association office, 1500 N.E. 4th St., Suite 104 in Oklahoma City.

Citizens will receive their first new card free of charge. Please bring your current citizenship card and/or other supporting documentation as needed. For more information call the OCMA office at: 405-605-2621.

LOUIS-MARSHALL REUNION SET FOR NOV. 30

WETUMKA, Okla. — A Louis and Mandy Marshall family reunion is set for Nov. 30 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Wetumka Community and Adult Center. Family members are encouraged to submit their favorite cooking recipes so cookbooks can be made before the next reunion. Bring covered dish, desert and door prize for adults and children of all ages. T-shirts will be for sale.

For information contact Jimmie at: 405-629-5228 or Bety at 918-623-7356.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SET FOR DEC. 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Christmas Bazaar, sponsored by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Citizens, is set for Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Elderly Nutrition Center north of the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The event will feature baked goods and traditional and holiday crafts.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SET FOR DEC. 7

TULSA, Okla. — A Christmas Bazaar, hosted by the Tulsa Creek Indian Community, is set for Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Booth rental is \$20 for 6 foot table space. Bring your own table and donate an item worth \$20. Concessions will be available and door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

For more information and to sign up for booth space contact TCIC at: 918-298-2464.

NATIVE AMERICAN CHRISTMAS MARKET SET FOR DEC. 14

SAPULPA, Okla. — The 3rd annual Native American Christmas Market, hosted by Autumn Star Catering, is set for Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 24 S. Poplar St., Sapulpa, OK 74066.

Autumn Star will provide concessions including: Indian tacos, spirit soup and pumpkin nut muffins. Over 25 vendors will be at the event and the featured artist will be Michel Laundermilk. Those interested in performing by: singing, spoken word, poetry or drum group please contact Tricia Alexander at: 918-224-1118.

MCN RIP HOLDING FIFTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program is holding the Fifth annual Holiday Toy Drive through Dec. 13 to provide a great holiday season for families of the incarcerated.

For more information call RIP at: 918-652-2676.

Okmulgee drop sites: MCN Mound Building, Personnel Department, Education and Training Building, Sharpe's Department Store, Okmulgee Indian Clinic, Lackey Hall at OSU Campus, Warehouse Market, KOKL Radio Station; Henryetta sites: Dollar Store, Family Dollar; Eufaula Site: Sharpe's Department Store.



I am writing in regard to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship ID card. I had mine renewed 10-23-2013. I was surprised to find my clan spelled in English (Wind). I made an effort to look up the spelling in the Muscogee dictionary and spelled it on the provided form (Hotvklvke). After receiving my new card I told the young lady this is the wrong spelling that I wanted it spelled in Muscogee, she politely explained that there have been a lot of complaints, that some of the younger people didn't understand the Muscogee spelling and there is talk of doing away with listing the name of the clan and tribal town completely. There was a young lady standing nearby and she asked what is a tribal town? I explained the tribal town is passed down to the children through the mother. For the heirs removed to Oklahoma, you should be able to trace it back to the Dawes enrollment, which list heirs of tribal towns. (That's what the Hickory Ground turmoil of Alabama is about, heirs in Oklahoma protecting their tribal town.) The clan is not on any list but you are the same as your mother. When filling out my form I was given the option of putting down my Social Security Number or not. I think I should have the same option for the spelling of my clan and tribal town.

Our elected officials when desiring our votes always claim they are for culture preservation and language preservation. When we drive on the streets of the capital complex we follow street signs spelled in the Muscogee language and in both Muscogee and English at the Muscogee Nation College.

I am glad our Principal Chief (Mekko) speaks in our Native language as well as English. I remember Alfred Berryhill, the former Second Chief, speaking in the Muscogee language every chance he had. I believe this is a good opportunity to keep the culture and preserve our language at the same time. I hope the powers that be consider keeping our culture alive, by printing clans and tribal towns in the Muscogee language.

Mvto, Steve Randall, Shawnee, Okla.

GIC HOSTING BLUES JAM SESSION AND WORKSHOP

GLENPOOL, Okla. — The Glenpool Indian Community is hosting a blues jam session and workshop every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. through the end of November at the GIC Community Center located next to the smoke shop off of U.S. Highway 75.

The sessions are from 7-9 p.m. with the beginner session beginning at 7 p.m. and the intermediate at 8 p.m.

For more information call: 918-855-0978.

MCN SRO November schedule

MCN SRO/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of November.

Nov. 18 - MCN Tribal complex closed

Nov. 19 - Tax Commission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

Nov. 20 - National Council 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Nov. 22 - Women Infants and Children clinic 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Nov. 26 - Tax Commission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

Nov. 27 - National Council 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Nov. 28-29 - MCN Tribal Complex Closed for Thanksgiving

MCN SRO: 405-452-1100

Mvskoke Language Revitalization Program

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Stonko Dean Tiger cvhocefkv tos. Hvte heyv vtotketv vlicev toyis. SteMvskoke empunvkv vwahecetv kon towes, mece kon nowvt ponsomkepvhvn tos. Vculvkvt toyvts kvv hvtvm mvnettvkvvt toyvts kvv ceme mvt SteMvskoke punvyvts cenowvt vnickyv poyace tos ce. Mvhayvts cenowvt hvtvm mvhayetv cekerreko nowvs momis mvhayetv ceyace nowvt cemnviceyvres ce.

Are you well? My name is Dean Tiger I've just begun this job. We are trying to save our language. If we do not try, we will surely lose it. If you are elderly or if you are young we need your help. If you are a teacher or if feel that you don't know how to teach but would be willing to learn we at the Language Program can train you to teach. We can provide you with technical help as well as books and other materials that you will need.

As I stated earlier our language is quickly dying and once it's gone, we will lose our identity as Mvskoke people. There are hundreds of tribes within the borders of the U.S. that have already lost their language. They have no living speakers and are searching the annuals of their history to revive their language. But we are still blessed with those that can still speak our language. The Mvskoke language is sacred its part of a three-fold existence. The other two are Heritage and Culture. These three go hand in hand. We have always heard that things happen in threes. This will be one of those situations if we stand idly by and do nothing. We are running out of time

Operation Christmas Child collection week set for Nov. 18-25

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham, that demonstrates God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with local churches worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.

National Collection Week is Nov. 18-25 and the Relay Center in Okmulgee is located at Town and Country Christian Church, 1160 E 36th, Okmulgee, OK 74447. The website will show the five closest relay centers: [www.samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/).

The Okmulgee hours are:  
Nov. 18 - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Nov. 19 - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Nov. 20 - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Nov. 21 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Nov. 22 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Nov. 23 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Nov. 24 1-5 p.m.  
Nov. 25 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

A packing party is set for 1 p.m., Nov. 9 at the Okmulgee County Fairgrounds. For more information contact Samaritan's Purse at 828-262-1980.



I've spoken to others and their thinking is the same as mine, the elderly of this generation will take the language with them. If not there will only be very few speakers in the next generation after their passing then death will come to our language. There isn't a more urgent plea than this, please help us to keep this beautiful language alive. Get involved with this all worthwhile endeavor.

We can do this; we can save our language only but with those individuals that are committed to see this through. I spoke with a Heles hayv (Medicine Man) at lunch one day I told him that our language was dying and he agreed and he began to tell me that the "old ones" use to say there is a day coming when Keloskv (I asked him what that meant and he said he didn't know) all he knew was it was some kind of language he didn't know whether it was English or some other language but he said once that arrives our language would cease to exist.

If you're not a speaker and you're willing to commit your time and energy to learn get with your Indian Community Center and search out other people in your community that are also willing to learn. There is someone in your community that will teach you if you take the initiative and just go for it. Again, time is short let's all work together to ensure that our language thrives for generations to come.

Contact the Mvskoke Language Revitalization Program by at: 918-732-7724, FAX: 918-732-7646, or mail to: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Ok. 74447



## INSIDE THE MNN:

### CREEK COUNCIL HOUSE STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT UNDERWAY

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# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## MCN hosts Mvskoke Day at Iron Gate

DEC. 1, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 23  
"RVFORANKKO"  
BIG WINTER

### Elected officials and citizens volunteer at Tulsa soup kitchen

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — Around 800 people were served Nov. 22, at Iron Gate in downtown Tulsa for Native American Day at the soup kitchen.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Secretary of Community and Human Services Cherrah Giles is the MCN representative at Iron Gate and worked in conjunction with representatives from other tribes including Osage and Cherokee Nation.

Giles coordinated Mvskoke Day at Iron Gate, which included volunteer work from MCN elected officials and employees. The meal included all tradition and cultural Mvskoke food, including: frybread, fried meat, hominy, beans and grape dumplings.

"I was honored to be on this board to see what else we can do as far as reaching out to our Native American population here in the Tulsa area and getting some of these citizens connected back to their tribes," Giles said. "And see



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Nation elected officials and employees volunteer for Native American Day Nov. 22, at Iron Gate in Tulsa.

if we can't get them off the streets and give them a hearty meal."

The soup kitchen, which started in 1978, is placed at Trinity Episcopal Church. The nonprofit organization has a Native American Advisory Board because of the large number of Native Americans served.

According to Iron Gate Executive Director Connie Cronley, about 300,000 people are fed each year through the program and nearly one-third of those are Native American.

"Many tribes are helped, but predominately Creek and Cherokee," Cronley said. "...We

thought, how could we better acknowledge and celebrate not only our Native American guests, but our Indian volunteers and our Indian culture because we're located in Tulsa; in Creek Nation."

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger expressed his appreciation

IRON - 3

## Emergency Management Team helps the homeless

### Department passes out food and blankets to needy families

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The temperature on the evening of Nov. 14 was 45 degrees. It was one of those nights where one might want to sit in front of the fire, or turn up the heat and enjoy a nice warm bowl of chili or stew.

On this night in downtown Tulsa, people waited patiently for what the men and women who arrived in trucks and sport utility vehicles were to bring them.

Volunteers from an organization called Thursday Night Light and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Team helped feed the homeless and provide clothes, shoes, coats and blankets to whoever would need them during the upcoming winter months.

When it came time to serve food to the homeless, lines filled up both sides of the ta-



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Team members James Nichols and Chris Azbell pass out food to the homeless Nov. 14 in downtown Tulsa.

bles. Before serving, a prayer was said for the people who were being served and for the ones who were serving. People as old as 85 and as young as eight were in line to get something to eat.

"It is very overwhelming to see the number of people here that are being fed and in need of assistance," Emergency Management Supervisor

James Nichols said. "Seeing the people out here tonight and imagining of what they have to endure is heart-breaking."

Thursday Night Light is an organization from 13 different churches that come together to help feed and clothe the homeless. What started as two people serving food to a couple of hungry people for an

evening turned into a weekly event that has been going on for over five years.

"We just want to come out and do what we can to help families with whatever we can help them with," said volunteer Paul Schmidt.

Schmidt added that they are thankful for every volunteer.

"We are glad the Creek Nation came out and helped us with the blankets tonight and are always appreciative for whoever wants to come and help volunteer," Schmidt said.

Everyone who was present for the evening was able to eat and get an extra couple of blankets for the cold nights. Throughout the evening, children were playing, seemingly without noticing the cold and people received leftovers for the next few days.

One Creek and Seminole family; made up of a father, son and three grandchildren, were among the group that was fed. The father was thankful for the organization and the help from MCN.

"It is a great thing for everyone that helped us out,"

HELP - 3

### MCN National Council holds Thanksgiving Food Drive

#### 6th Annual Food Drive donations help Muscogee (Creek) citizens this Holiday

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council and MCN employees gathered food items to prepare Thanksgiving food baskets for chosen citizens.

The National Council office collected food and money donations in October and November.

The money donations bought the turkeys for each Muscogee (Creek) family along with baskets of staple Thanksgiving foods.

The baskets include cans of: pumpkin, gravy, chicken broth, stuffing, green beans, sweet potatoes and more to create a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the less fortunate families.

Rep. Shirlene Ade said the idea for a food drive came about six years ago as a way to reach out to her district constituents and their families along with citizens in other districts.

She said most of the food drive recipients have been chosen through different MCN departments such as the Head Start program and Social Services. Other families have also reached out for assistance.

"I received calls from some of our citizens needing help," Ade said. "So I went back and talked to some of the girls in our office and just talked about how we could help the citizens. So we just kind of decided among all of us to have a Thanksgiving drive and it has grown every year."

Last year more than 140 baskets were distributed to families.

Ade said she hopes to reach out to even more this year.

"If they can't come up here,

DRIVE - 3





MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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Harjo speaks on book, being an artist for NSU cultural series



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Joy Harjo was featured at the Arts of Indigenous Cultures Series at Northeastern State University for Native American Heritage Month. Harjo also signed copies of her memoir, “Crazy Brave” before her performance.

NSU hosts Native American Heritage Month presentation

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joy Harjo gave a presentation for the Arts of Indigenous Cultures Series at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah on Nov. 14 in honor of Native American Heritage Month.

Around 150 people attended the presentation according to Marsey Harjo, employee for the Center for Tribal Studies Administration at NSU.

Marsey Harjo said that Joy Harjo was chosen for her many artistic abilities.

“Her talking about her book was an inspiration to those Native American students here at NSU,” Marsey Harjo said. “I think that she’s made some great accomplishments.”

Joy Harjo read excerpts from “Crazy Brave” and brought her

saxophone to entertain the audience.

She also participated in a book signing before the event for her memoir “Crazy Brave.” In the memoir, Joy Harjo details the events in her life that led her to become an artist.

“Crazy Brave” won the 2013 Before Columbus Foundation’s American Book Award and the 2013 PEN Literary Award.

A decorated artist and 2012 Mvskoke Hall of Fame inductee, Joy Harjo was happy to be chosen for the cultural series.

“It’s always an honor to have an audience or to have people want to hear what really comes through you or the work you do,” she said.

Joy Harjo hopes to teach writing workshop in the area. Details of the workshop have not been finalized.

Books by Joy Harjo are available at the NSU bookstore and through her website: www.joy-harjo.com.

MCN Tribal Transportation Program meets with county commissioners



MNN/Gerald Wofford

Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Rep. Eddie LaGrone (left) looks over roadmaps with John Blickensderfer, Newt Stephens and Mark Lotta at the Second annual County Commissioner luncheon Oct. 25 in Okmulgee.

Office acknowledges assistance and effort of others

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE, Okla. – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation program held the Second annual County Commissioner luncheon Oct. 25.

The purpose of the event is to maintain a good relationship with local county commissioners by offering them an opportunity to present their requests for help with road improvements.

“Its for them (commissioners) to give their priorities for their county roads they want improved and we put them against our road projects priorities as a tribe and that’s how we come up with our next 2014 projects,” Charley LaSarge, MCN Tribal Transportation Manager said.

Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith brought members of her staff to the luncheon.

“It’s an incredible opportunity for all of us to work together.

How we missed this last year, I have no idea. We will never miss this again,” Keith said.

For Okfuskee County Commissioner Danny Wilson, the aid the TTP has provided is significant.

“Back during the summer, we had a big rain that washed out a bridge on one of our county roads,” Wilson said. “We didn’t have the equipment big enough to fix the problem. Charley called us and said, ‘we will have a crew and equipment there to help.’”

The road that the bridge is on is located near Oklahoma State Highway 48 and Okfuskee, Okla.

LaSarge knew the importance of fixing the road for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

“The bridge was out and a lot of citizens travel this roads and our transit bus needs to get down there to take citizens to clinics too,” LaSarge said.

The luncheon also provided an opportunity for the TTP office to acknowledge certain commissioners, individuals and organizations in their efforts to assist the tribe.

Tribal officers graduate from law enforcement training



MNN/Darren DeLaune

(Left to right) Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Officers Tyler Sands, Kayla Duncan and Malissa Beaver graduated from Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training Nov. 8 in Ada, Okla.

CLEET graduates apply knowledge in the field

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

ADA, Okla. — Three Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police officers graduated Nov. 8 from the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training.

CLEET is a training facility located in Ada, which supports Oklahoma’s state, county and local law enforcement agencies. They provide the education required for cadets in Oklahoma to be able to become police officers.

The 16-week course goes over physical training, defensive tactics, law enforcement driving training and other courses.

The three CLEET graduates from the Lighthorse Tribal po-

lice are Kayla Duncan, Malissa Beaver and Tyler Sands.

Duncan talked about her experiences at CLEET.

“It was a great experience at CLEET,” Duncan said. “We learned a lot and made a lot of friends.”

Beaver also spoke on their graduation and what they felt after it was over with.

“Very rewarding,” Beaver said. “Very challenging for all of us but we did it. We were all happy to get through this and to be able to graduate together.”

The officers have put what they have learned in to action.

“As soon as were back here and out in the field, what we have learned from CLEET has already been put to the test,” Duncan said.

Sands was not present for interview due to police situation in northern Okmulgee County.

MCN departments hold career, education expo

Event provides information to local students and tribal citizens

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

BEGGS, Okla. — High School students and citizens from around the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction were able to meet one-on-one with college representatives and programs Nov. 7 at the MCN Education and Career Expo.

The MCN Higher Education Department and other programs held the event at the



Beggs High School

Dome. As an incentive, students from around the area were given “passports” to get signed and stamped from each booth in order to be eligible for the door prizes.

Higher Education Manager Emmanuel Bezzell said it was a great way to get the students to ask questions and draw their interest.

While a number of technology centers and employers were at the event, colleges and universities such as Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma and Tulsa Community College were available to provide information and advisement.

The event is the first of its kind for the department but is something the department wants to continue in the future.

“One thing with higher education, we think how we can

bring things to the community,” Bezzell said. “You know schools have college days where they can go out and take the students to the colleges, so we wanted to bring the colleges closer.”

Bezzell said he believes it is a way for Muscogee (Creek) students to find out about different career paths and how to go about getting into that field.

The expo was also an opportunity for MCN programs to reach out to citizens and show what the tribe has to offer.

“We get a lot of support from chief and council,” Bezzell said.

“Without a team effort,

without collaboration, you can’t do events like this. All our programs work well together.”

Bezzell also commented on the growth and improvement of the College of the Muscogee Nation in the last two years.

“We’ve eliminated some of the paperwork to make it faster and easier,” Bezzell said. “We also got approval in August from the National Council to increase the amount of money we give our students. So, we’re very happy about that as well.”

Actual debit cards will be given out to CMN students as opposed to a check for scholarships.

“It’s a way for us to get more modern and a better approach and a better way for our students to get funded faster,” Bezzell said.



# Restoration of Creek Council House: structural assessment underway



Restoration is set to begin soon on the 135-year-old Muscogee (Creek) Nation Creek Council House in downtown Okmulgee, Okla., under the direction of the MCN Museum Department

## Submission from: MCN Museum and Cultural Center

The restoration of the Creek Council House, a cultural treasure and icon for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, will soon be underway. The comprehensive restoration project will require a great deal of professional expertise and experience and will include every part of the building and grounds. The focus of the project will be on quality and authenticity. An evaluation of the current condition of the building has already begun. This assessment is being conducted by qualified and highly experienced specialists in the field of historic building restoration and rehabilitation including architects as well as mechanical and structural engineers, to ensure that this invaluable piece of Muscogee living history is protected for past, present and future generations.

The project is being coordinated by the MCN Museum Department. Director and Curator John Beaver and Assistant Director Justin Giles along with the Museum Department staff and a project team, have already completed the initial steps to bring new life to the Council House.

As the only surviving pre-statehood structure associated with and now presently owned by Muscogee people, the historic Creek Council House stands as a bridge from pre-removal Muscogee life in the southeast to a new life in Indian Territory. Erected in 1878, the durability of the present-day Council House, like the mounds in central Georgia and Alabama, is a testament to the strength and enduring spirit of Muscogee people. The Council House marks the exact place where our Muscogee government was re-established and the city of Okmulgee began almost 150 years ago. In 1867, the Muscogee Nation adopted a Constitution that established the foundation and framework for the Muscogee Nation tribal government we know today. A two-story log cabin structure was constructed in 1868 to

house this Muscogee Government. The original building was torn down in 1877 and the new Council House was built in 1878 on top of the foundation for the previous building.

When the restoration project is complete, the Council House will take on a new and renewed role. With the Council House building and grounds once again in the possession of the Muscogee (Creek) tribe, the Council House will start a new life as an active historic site and will no longer house a museum. Instead, the building and grounds will tell their own story through the richness of their own history.

To that end, the Council House will be restored to reflect and resemble its use as the national seat of Creek government. The floor plan will reference and acknowledge the original 1878 layout. Authenticity will be a major goal in all details, from use of space to heating stoves and light fixtures.

Ward Coachman was principal chief when the legislation was passed to build the Council House. The handwritten bill stated "...said building shall contain suitable chambers for the office of the Chief Executive, the House of Kings, the House of Warriors, the Supreme Court, the offices of Treasurer, Auditor, and Superintendent of Schools, and for the various committees of the National Council, ..." Rev. James McHenry signed the document as president, House of Kings, and Pink Hawkins signed as "Speaker pro tem H.W."

Interpretive text panels and photographs will identify for visitors where each of these spaces were located and how they were used and more importantly, will tell of significant events that took place in the various rooms of the Council House.

Just as visitors to Independence Hall in Philadelphia leave with a clear understanding that the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were both adopted by Congress there, visitors to the Council House will understand how our government has consisted of a representative based legislative body, a prin-

icipal and second chief (executive branch), and a court system (judicial branch).

Visitors will experience this historical site and know how the Council House was originally used, and more importantly, what happened there, and that the Muscogee (Creek) people have a long history of being a dynamic self-governing nation. Existing artifacts from the original building remain and can be placed in the rooms where they were originally used. Other items from the newly acquired Council House collections will also be displayed to further tell the Council House story and enhance the educational and community experience.

When the restoration project is complete, the Council House will serve many purposes. In addition to serving as an educational resource about Creek government and history during the years 1867 - 1906, the Council House will be an active living historical building where the principal chief, National Council, and courts can stage significant meetings, signings, swearing in ceremonies in a beautiful, historic setting. The grounds and building can also be used for re-enactments, art and farmers markets, small group tribal meetings and of course, the annual festival.

The restored Council House will be another way that every Muscogee (Creek) citizen can experience and understand the past and appreciate the stories associated with it and to further help build a stronger sense of Muscogee (Creek) identity and unity.

Preparing the Council House for a renewed role as an active historical site will involve extensive work on the 135-year old structure. The mechanical systems will all be updated to present standards with an eye to the future. The overall restoration of the Council House will follow strict architectural guidelines specific to historic buildings. These guidelines ensure that restoration and rehabilitation work on historic buildings is of the highest sustainable standard. Once the restoration project is completed, a building maintenance plan will be developed and implemented

to avoid neglect and ensure the long-term care and stability of the Council House.

Electrical systems, energy efficiency, fire systems, heating and cooling, plumbing, roofing, wood rot, structural integrity, exterior and interior surfaces, and storm water drainage have already undergone an initial assessment by engineers under the direction of Sikes|Abernathie Architects of Tulsa. This architectural firm has overseen numerous restorations of historical buildings in Oklahoma: the Cherokee National Supreme Court, the Cherokee National Prison, and a project in progress, the Cherokee Capital, all in Tahlequah, Okla., as well as the George Murrell Home in Park Hill, Okla., the McAlester Scottish Rite Masonic Center, the Dewey Hotel in Dewey, Okla., and the A. J. Seay Mansion in Kingfisher, Okla.

The initial stabilization assessment was completed during August and September, however several steps still remain before the beautiful building is completely restored and ready for use. Sikes|Abernathie will complete a full schematic design with cost estimates. Additional steps include designing exhibits, lighting, materials and numerous other details to best serve the planned uses of the building and to match the building's original 1878 appearance. Stories and photos associated with the Council House are currently being researched. The actual construction and restoration work is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2014 with an anticipated completion date in 2015.

While the Council House will become a construction site and the building will be closed for general visitation, numerous activities and educational programming are being planned and scheduled during the restoration period so that Muscogee citizens and visitors can experience history and interact with living, breathing Muscogee culture.

Submitted by John Beaver, Director/Curator, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum Department, and Dr. Betty Gerber, Chair of the Museum Oversight Committee.

## IRON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for the volunteers.

"You know, traditionally and culturally that is who we are as Muscogee (Creek) people," Tiger said. "We help whenever help is needed."

Tiger said he believes it's the perfect time of year to serve the people.

"It's a good feeling, especially in the time of Thanksgiving," Tiger said. "It's really good. And you know, sometimes we forget whatever we do on a bigger scale. It's more important to do the smaller things as well and that's what we're doing today."

Iron Gate at Trinity Inc. is located at 501 S. Cincinnati Ave. Tulsa, Okla. The soup kitchen is opened daily from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. For more information call: 918-359-9001.

## DRIVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

then I'll deliver to them," Ade said.

If a Muscogee (Creek) family is in need, Ade advises them to contact their Council representative or the Council office.

Ade wants to think all of the programs and citizens who have donated to the Council to make the event happen.

"We come together and help others out," Ade said. "Other Council members step up and do their part by volunteering and donating. And so do the employees. So we all come together for the good of the citizens."

After the Thanksgiving Food Drive is wrapped up, Ade and other Council members will start on the Christmas Food Drive for the MCN Reintegration Program.

For more information, call the National Council office at: 918-758-1410.

## HELP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he said. "It has been rough since January but I think we having something finally go our way because we are finally getting a house. It is going slowly but it is turning around for me and my family."

While some were able to go home to missions around the area to get some rest for the evening, some of the people that attended found an alley and covered up with all of their possessions to fall asleep for the night. Clouds converged as volunteers dispersed and it started to rain.

"This was a reality check," Nichols said. "Be appreciative with what you have because we are seeing people lay down right beside us and that is where they will sleep for the night."

While a lot of people do help out during the holidays, homelessness is not a seasonal thing. The Emergency Management Team is trying to figure out a way to become more involved with helping.

"We are looking to sit down and see if we can come help in some way, whether it is here or somewhere else and become more involved in helping the homeless," Nichols said.



## Mvskoke Women’s Leadership Initiative strives to inspire, empower



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
Melba Hall (left) and Rachel Sourjohn (right) make lip balm under instruction from Cassandra Thompson during a Sister-to-Sister Luncheon Nov. 1 hosted by the Mvskoke Women's Leadership Initiative.

## Luncheons held as fellowship activity

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Sister-to-Sister Luncheons, sponsored by the Mvskoke Women's Leadership Initiative, provide an opportunity to recharge and socialize with other women in the community.

Attendees converse over lunch, listen to a speaker or take part in an activity geared toward women's interests.

The intention for the luncheons is not to host just another meeting, but to encourage and fun and laid back environment.

"We get busy with our daily lives, so we don't want it to be one more thing you have to do. We want it to really be 'hey you know what, I'm going to go hang out with my sisters today' and just laugh and have a good time..." MWLI Vice-Chairperson Cherrah Giles said.

MWLI was started in March 2009 to encourage and empower women. The initiative is all-inclusive of women in the community and provides a networking tool centered on Mvskoke culture.

When MWLI Chairperson Rachel Sourjohn first joined the organization, she hoped to find a positive influence through culture.

"At the time I was just seeking some really good Mvskoke women role models and this was like kind of the perfect opportu-

nity that was just a place where I could grow and be like the women I was seeing making a change in our Nation," Sourjohn said.

Sourjohn is the current Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

MWLI is completing incorporation paperwork for the state of Oklahoma that will allow the initiative to begin fundraising and accepting donations.

"It will allow us to be able to accept donations a little bit more freely and do some of the bigger things that we've always wanted to do but just really didn't have the funds," Giles said.

The initiative hopes to begin to sponsor women's and young girl's leadership conferences. An awards ceremony for women's leadership is in the works for spring 2014.

"We're excited about where we can go if we sit down, get our goals and objectives in place and then start carrying out those things," Giles said.

The next Sister-to-Sister luncheon will be Dec. 6 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the MCN Housing Building.

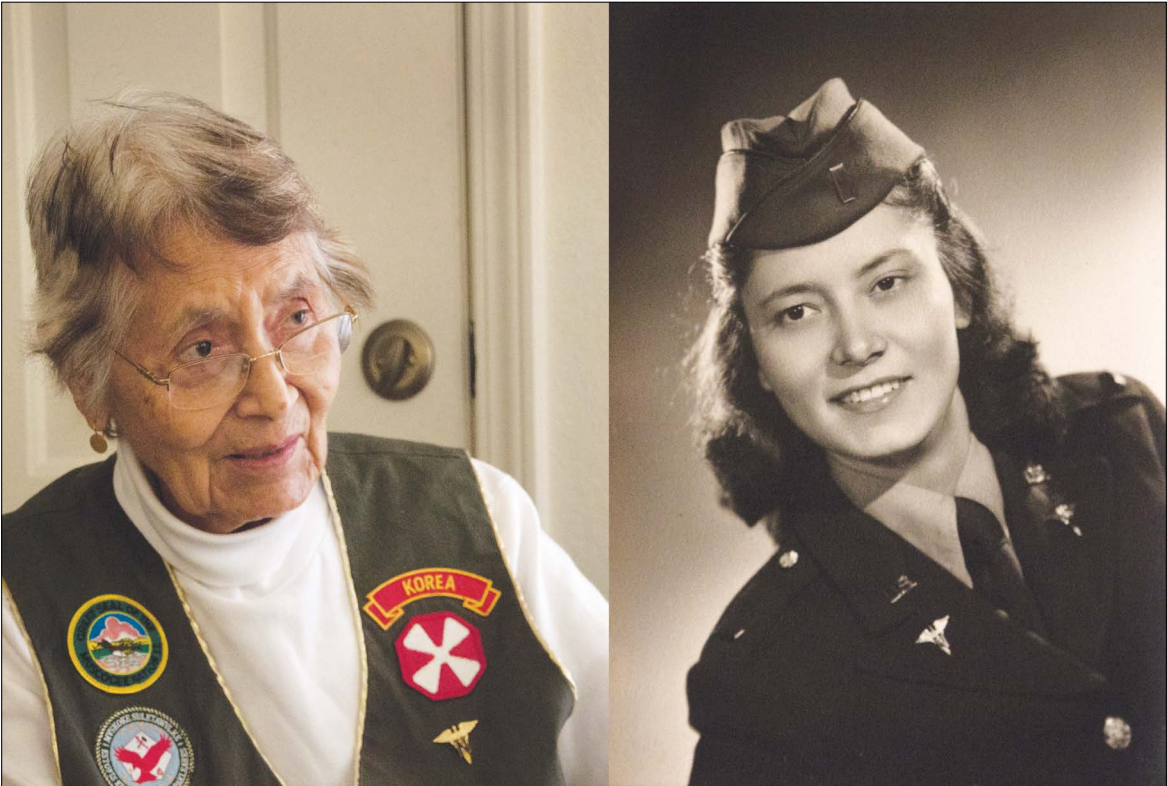
The next MWLI meeting has not been scheduled.

Sourjohn believes that the initiative has broadened her perspective in many ways.

"It's somewhere I can grow; somewhere I can be myself," Sourjohn said. "I've found role models there and made great connections and met people that kind of changed my life, changed my view on life."

For more information on MWLI, visit: [www.facebook.com/mvskokewomensleadership](http://www.facebook.com/mvskokewomensleadership).

## Muscogee (Creek) veteran counts the horrors of war



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
(Right) Muscogee (Creek) veteran Anna King as a nurse in the U.S. Army during her service in the Korean War along side King today (left). Submission

## King differentiates Korean War from popular TV show ‘MASH’

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — When the Korean War is brought up in conversation, people all over the U.S. commonly think of the television sitcom 'MASH.' While the TV show brought some comic relief to a deadly war, one person remembers the Korean War another way.

"It was terrible," Muscogee (Creek) veteran Anna King said. "It was bad for the troops. It was bad for not only the troops but for everyone there. It was below zero all the time."

King, who goes by the name 'Jake' served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during the Korean War in the 121st Evacuation Hospital Unit.

King wanted to pursue a career in nursing because of an earlier incident involving her mother. She cited the "terrible" conditions at a local Indian Health Service facility while her mother was a patient there.

"My mother was ill," King said. "That hospital that she

was in was terrible. You could look at her and other patients and see they were not taken care of at all. Dirty hands, dirty face and odors from everywhere was in that hospital."

When King was an adult, she felt that she wanted to travel and see the world. So she joined the Army to become a nurse. She thought she would be going to Okinawa, Japan but those orders were rescinded and she was sent to Korea.

The Korean War began in 1950.

Being a nurse in the Korean War, there were times the nurses not only worked on the U.S. soldiers who were wounded but anyone who went through their hospital.

"We had our soldiers to worry about when they came in," King said. "Please remember, that this war; everyone was affected in some way. We worked on enemy soldiers, prisoners, children and babies."

She saw all types of injuries treating the patients during this war. She had one overall concern while dealing with anyone who came into the hospital.

"I was always afraid of head injuries," King said. "We only had one neurosurgeon and he

was not always in our hospital. His English was not too good and he had to go to the different hospitals. So the patients would have to wait for him."

King remembers men who were 16-years-old getting their parents approval to fight in the war.

"I remember seeing these young men, very young," King said. "They wanted to fight in the war but they did not know what they were getting themselves into. I felt sorry for them."

King recalls soldiers dealing with worms from the produce in Korea. She said the soldiers were warned.

"The worms came crawling out of the (soldiers) bellies, nose and mouth," King said. "The Koreans were used to that. Our soldiers took medication to get rid of the worms."

King served in the Korean War from 1950-51. She returned back to the U.S. in 1951. The Korean War ended in 1953 with the Korean Armistice Agreement.

King returned back to the U.S. after the war to help raise her family but she still continued nursing. Her career took her to many places including Panama and Guam.

King, 88, resides in Okmulgee.

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 21ST

NOON - 8:00PM  
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Electronic Ticket Drawings

Diamond Club players earn one (1) electronic drawing ticket with every \$75 coin in beginning December 1st through December 21st.  
Beginning at 1:30PM, We will conduct one (1) electronic ticket drawing every 30 minutes where the winner can win up to \$250 cash or entry to the Grand Prize drawing.

Grand Prize Drawings

At 8:00PM, grand prize qualifiers will return to select an envelope.  
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TUESDAY DECEMBER 31ST

NYE 4:00PM - Midnight  
\$10 Match Play

Diamond Rewards Free Play

Diamond Club members will earn free play for use on 12/31/13 from 4:00PM - Midnight based upon points earned from December 1st - December 29th.

Electronic Ticket Drawings

Diamond Club players earn one (1) electronic drawing ticket with every \$100 coin in beginning December 1st through December 31st.  
One (1) \$1,000 Electronic ticket drawing will be held December 31st, every hour beginning 4:00PM - 11:00PM.

NYE Grand Prize Drawings

At midnight, we will have five (5) electronic ticket drawings.  
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## Chaudhuri named to head NIGC



**Submission**  
Jonodev Chaudhuri, former Muscokee (Creek) Supreme Court justice and new chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

### Former Muscogee (Creek) justice discusses agenda for new appointment

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

WASHINGTON — The new-est chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission is Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jonodev Chaudhuri. The NIGC regulates tribal gaming nation-wide.

The former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court Justice was appointed by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell Sept. 3 for a three year term.

In accepting the appointment, Chaudhuri said he was honored as a Creek person to be in the position and looked forward to fairly serving all of Indian Country.

His first priority, Chaudhuri said, was to continue the agenda already facing NIGC and intensify two-way communica-

tured to a point, largely because of how well gaming has been developed within Indian Country itself," he said.

Besides the MCN, the Cherokee and Osage Nations have large gambling complexes located in the area surrounding Tulsa. The area is second in the nation in gaming revenue. The Oklahoma City region is the nation's leader in gross gaming revenue for tribes.

The use of those revenues is outlined in the Indian Gaming Revenue Act Bulletin No. 05-1. That documents governs how those funds are to be used for government purposes and for payments to individual tribal members.

In cases where his own tribe is involved, Chaudhuri recognizes the conflict of interest and said he would step aside from NIGC review and action.

"First of all, I can't speak in any detail on any actions that may eventually come before me as chair. But, beyond that, in

**"IT'S PRETTY MUCH STANDARD PRACTICE TO BE RECUSED FROM ISSUES INVOLVING YOUR PARTICULAR NATION."**

**—JONODEV CHAUDHURI, NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN**

tions with gaming tribes.

"I think the hallmark of the commission in recent years has been an emphasis on consultation and outreach and dialogue with tribes and tribal regulators. I for one, see that as the most important part of my agenda," he said.

To accomplish that task, Chaudhuri said, he would fulfill the commission's ACE initiative: 'A' for assistance; 'C' for compliance and 'E' for enforcement.

That third component, he said, would be addressed in what he called a partnership arrangement.

"The 'E' stands for enforcement, when necessary. Everyone wants to be in compliance. We see ourselves as a partner with the tribes, to do whatever we can to address issues before they become problems to make sure that tribes get there in terms of compliance," he said.

Gaming facilities have become a growing economic pillar for many tribal economies. That's a fact shown in NIGC reports on annual revenue reports.

"We do an annual assessment of gross gaming revenues. In 2012, we had record gross gaming revenues from Indian Country. The fact of the matter is, gaming operations have ma-

terms of Creek Nation issues, Muscogee Nation issues, for the most part, I will in all likelihood be recused from taking any specific actions that are directly related to the Creek Nation.

"Now, I don't say that in absolute terms because there are largely initiatives of the commissions that benefit Indian Country as a whole and hopefully benefit all tribes."

The MCN was under NIGC scrutiny over a review of the tribe's plans to distribute gaming monies four years ago. The Nation also saw a more recent controversy over a casino planned by the Kialegee Tribal Town in Broken Arrow, Okla.

Again he indicated, those MCN issues would be something that he felt he would have to back away from.

"Specific issues such as those may come up for a chair decision or involve the Creek Nation. In all likelihood, I won't be able to speak to it," Chaudhuri said.

Chaudhuri continued by sharing his confidence regarding how such cases would be handled.

"All matters will be given appropriate and adequate attention and treatment and so, that's about all I can say about that issue at this time," he said.



## Muscogee (Creek) artisan takes patchwork nationwide



**MNN/Amanda Rutland**  
Patchwork artisan, Tom Barnett, instructs student, Bobbi Chewbigy Nov. 8 at the Twin Hills Community Center, near Okmulgee, Okla.

## Barnett furthers craft through Twin Hills workshop

**Amanda Rutland/MNN**

**TWIN HILLS COMMUNITY, Okla.** — Nov. 8 is a peaceful autumn day. The only sound filling the Twin Hills Community Center is the hum of sewing machines. Seminole patchwork artisan Tom Barnett is sharing his knowledge with a small class.

Barnett is an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and three-quarters Seminole.

He has been teaching patchwork classes at Twin Hills for two years. Barnett started Semehobya Patchwork seven years ago as a hobby and has since developed it into a thriving fulltime business.

"The majority of orders come from out of state," Barnett said.

He has even taken on an apprentice, longtime friend, Lana Brown. Brown is Navajo, Muscogee (Creek) and Yuchee/Euchi.

Before becoming an apprentice, she had never used a sewing machine. However, she has learned quickly. Barnett rates patchwork on levels from one to 12 for his classes. Within six months Brown was constructing level 12 designs.

She said one of her favorite things is seeing the reactions from customers when they deliver the finished patchwork.

"I think it's very heartwarm-

ing knowing what you can make from nothing," Brown said.

She has also enjoyed learning what the patchwork designs mean. Brown explains that the ornate designs are for unmarried women looking for a mate. Married women wear the designs of her clan or her husband's clan.

“The woman’s clan is on top and the man’s clan is on bottom. There is a story to be told, and usually it is the happy path,” Brown said.

Brown said she feels like patchwork is a calling.

"I love how it means something," Brown said.

Barnett said that their craft is needed now more than ever because youth are not learning traditional skills.

Brown and Barnett are working toward incorporating patterns from Brown's Navajo culture into pieces. They are also incorporating patchwork onto non-traditional items, such as aprons, potholders and jingle dresses.

Brown says they are doing that to push themselves as artisans and to keep their craft interesting.

Samples of their patchwork can be viewed on the Semehoya Facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/pages/Semehobya-patchworks-and-designs/158116927726974?id=158116927726974&sk=info](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Semehobya-patchworks-and-designs/158116927726974?id=158116927726974&sk=info)

Inquires may be directed to  
Tom Barnett at: 918-804-1050.

## Muskoke Artist Holiday Gift Guide

Hesci readers

This holiday season, we at the 'Muscogee Nation News' have put together our first Muscogee (Creek) artist holiday guide. The purpose of this guide is to provide a centralized resource of contact information for Mvskoke/Native American artists so that you have a wide variety of unique, authentic and cultural gift options for your loved ones.

We also hope this resource will provide further exposure for our Mvskoke artists and supports their craft by expanding their reputation and business. Since this is the first year for the holiday guide, we are quite sure there are some artists we may have missed. If you or someone you know may be interested in being featured in future artist guides, please contact myself, MNN Editor Sterling Cosper by phone at: 918-732-7697 or email at: [scosper@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:scosper@mcn-nsn.gov).

Myto to you all for reading, during my first year as editor of the MNN. Best wishes and love to you and your's this holiday season and I hope to continue to earn your loyalty in 2014 as we strive to improve and expand our publication.

Nancy Boyett	Executive Ribbon Shirts	918-212-0891 www.executiveribbonshirts.com
Jimmy Deere	Ballsticks	918-321-3695
Sara Fleming	Quilts, Dog Bandanas	918-633-0869 www.Designsbysaralynne.com
Billy Harjo	Bead Work	918-268-4637
Nelson Harjo	Flute Making	918-758-7266
Brenda Holmes	Beaded Necklaces, Bracelets, Earrings	918-686-8821
Ruthe Blalock Jones	Original Artwork and Prints	www.rutheblalockjones.com
Shirley Martin S&L Gallery	\$10 and up Native American Arts and Crafts	918-652-5387 511 W. Main, Henryetta, OK
Eva Nance	Clothing, ribbon shirts, skins, vests, T-shirts, Christmas ordainments	405-859-3833
Scott Roberts	Pottery	405-946-5233 www.creekpotter.com
Mary Smith	Baskets, Pottery, Storyteller Dolls, Feather and Leatherwork	Home: 918-366-4958 Cell: 918-812-0056
Jon Tiger	Painting, Drawing, Bookmarks, Screen Printed Artwork, water-color, acrylic, reproductions	918-850-3806
Sandy Fife-Wilson	Copper Tooling, Ribbon Shirts, Shell Carving, Fingerweaving Basketry	918-733-4742





# MCN COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL EVENTS

## CAN MAKING CLASSES SET TO BEGIN JAN. 20, 2014

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Cultural Preservation is taking names for a new series of classes on how to make stomp-dance cans. The next open class is set for Jan. 20, 2014 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. in the Cultural Preservation Library. Classes are limited to eight people and tools and materials will be provided. Interested Creek citizens should call Johnnie Wesley at: 918-732-7733.

## MCN RIP HOLDING FIFTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program is holding the Fifth annual Holiday Toy Drive through Dec. 13 to provide a great holiday season for families of the incarcerated.

For more information call RIP at: 918-652-2676.

Okmulgee drop sites: MCN Mound Building, Personnel Department, Education and Training Building, Sharpe's Department Store, Okmulgee Indian Clinic, Lackey Hall at OSU Campus, Warehouse Market, KOKL Radio Station; Henryetta sites: Dollar Store, Family Dollar; Eufaula Site: Sharpe's Department Store.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SET FOR DEC. 7

TULSA, Okla. — A Christmas Bazaar, hosted by the Tulsa Creek Indian Community, is set for Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Booth rental is \$20 for 6 foot table space. Bring your own table and donate an item worth \$20. Concessions will be available and door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

For more information and to sign up for booth space contact TCIC at: 918-298-2464.

## NATIVE AMERICAN CHRISTMAS MARKET SET FOR DEC. 14

SAPULPA, Okla. — The 3rd annual Native American Christmas Market, hosted by Autumn Star Catering, is set for Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 24 S. Poplar St., Sapulpa, OK 74066.

Autumn Star will provide concessions including: Indian tacos, spirit soup and pumpkin nut muffins.

Over 25 vendors will be at the event and the featured artist will be Michel Laudermilk.

Those interested in performing by: singing, spoken word, poetry or drum group please contact Tricia Alexander at: 918-852-0017.

## CMCA GATHERING SET FOR DEC. 28

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A holiday gathering of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association is set for Dec. 28 at Sherman Indian High School, 9010 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, CA from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please enter from the Jackson Street gate.

The main dish will be provided but additional potluck dishes are needed and welcomed. Little gifts will be distributed for the children. This is a new location for CMCA and we hope to see friends from Palm Springs and San Diego.

For more information contact George Windes, Yorba Linda: 714-970-6468.

## CLAREMORE DENTAL CLINIC TO CHANGE SIGN IN TIME

CLAREMORE, Okla. — Starting Jan. 2, 2014, the Claremore Indian Hospital Dental Clinic will be changing the sign in time for walk-in patients to 7:30-9:30 a.m., Monday-Friday.

All patients who participate in the Claremore Indian Hospital Diabetes Program are encouraged to receive a consultation from the clinic for the opportunity to receive dentures.

## Conservation program deadline set

USDA/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Land users wanting financial assistance for conservation work in 2014 will want to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program by Dec. 20 according to Ron Goedecke, District Conservationist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“EQIP is the most complete and comprehensive conservation program for Okmulgee County” Goedecke added.

EQIP is an agreement where conservational practices are set up on a short-term (usually 1-3 years) schedule with the producer to carry out. The completed items are then paid for in part and based on a cost schedule for each conservation practice.

“All agreements are developed from the producer’s conservation plan,” Goedecke said.

The conservation plan will identify natural resource issues such as soil erosion, plant health, soil health, water quality, etc. Practices such as ponds, brush control, overseeding legumes and fencing are some typical conservation practices used to address natural resource issues. If you are interested in making application for EQIP you may contact the USDA, NRCS or the Okmulgee County Conservation District at 719 East 8th St. in Okmulgee or by phone at: 918-756-0850.

## MCN SRO December schedule

MCN SRO/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for December.

Dec. 3 - Tax Commission  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

Dec. 4 - National Council  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dec. 10 - Tax Commission  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

Dec. 11 - National Council  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dec. 13 - Women Infants and Children clinic  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dec. 17 - Tax Commission  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

Dec. 18 - National Council  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dec. 24-25 - Creek Nation Complex closed

Dec. 27 - WIC clinic  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dec. 31 - Creek Nation Complex closed

MCN SRO: 405-452-1100

## Tobacco Prevention Program hosts Great American Smoke Out

MCN DOH/Media Release

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Tobacco Prevention Program would like to thank all the participants of the Great American Smokeout Nov 21. We had 135 non-smokers that gave up different items in honor or co-workers, friends, and family members that are smokers. We had 24 smokers commit to quit for one day. Did you know:

- It takes an average of seven attempts before a smoker becomes a non-smoker.
- Nicotine has been found to be more addictive than heroin.
- Tobacco smoke contains over 4,000 different chemicals, at least 50 are known to be carcinogens (cause cancer in humans) and many are poisonous.
- Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the U.S.
- You can receive free one-on-one coaching, and/or free nicotine patches or gum by calling: 1-800-QUIT-NOW.
- The MCN can help! Talk to your health care provider or call the Tobacco Prevention Program at: 918-623-1189 or toll free at: 855-623-1189.

Again, thank you for taking this step to create healthy change!  
Congratulations to Ekaese McKinney for winning the Great American Smokeout turkey raffle!

## IHS and the Notah Begay III Foundation form partnership

IHS/Media Release

The Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Notah Begay III Foundation (NB3F) are collaborating on activities aimed at preventing childhood obesity in American Indian and Alaska Native youth. The partnership will include sharing best practices in implementation of community-based activities directed at addressing childhood obesity in Indian Country.

The collaboration, initiated Nov. 12 was developed in support of the Let’s Move! In Indian Country (LMIC) program, which is part of First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! initiative. The LMIC seeks to advance the work tribal leaders and community members are doing to improve the health of Native youth.

“Today’s partnership is an important step towards helping Native American youth lead healthier lives,” said Sam Kass, executive director of Let’s Move! and White House senior policy advisor on nutrition. “With the LMIC, we’ve seen tribal leaders engage their communities by creating food policy councils and reintroducing sports like lacrosse into schools, but we know there is more work to be done to ensure all our children have the healthy futures they deserve.”

For more information contact IHS at: 301-443-3593 or Casey Lozar with NB3F at: 406-396-1216.

## MCN discusses further CNG development



MNN/Gary Fife

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Oklahoma Secretary of Energy Michael Teague talks with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and MCN National Council Rep. Kara Medina about plans for Compressed Natural Gas development for the tribe.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT	
In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: D. R. B. B. J. H.	) ) ) ) ) Case No. <u>GD-2013-24</u>
Minor Children.	)
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To: Robert Hogshooter	
TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2013-24, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: D.R.B. and B.J.H., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor children.	
You are notified that you must answer the <i>Petition</i> filed by the petitioner or appear on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2013, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the <i>Petition</i> will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their <i>Petition</i> .	
Given under my hand and seal this <u>22</u> day of <u>November</u> , 2013.	
Donna Beaver, Court Clerk Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District	
By: <u>Stephani Bear</u> (Deputy)	
Approved:  Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543 McKenna & Prescott 114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby Okmulgee, OK 74447 (918) 756-1112 Telephone (918) 756-1113 Facsimile Attorney for Petitioners	

## Mvskoke Language Revitalization Program submission

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Message for all Mvskoke Speakers

The following is a paper written by Ryan Hill a student at the College of the Muscogee Nation who is enrolled in a Creek Language Class:

As a student of the Mvskoke language, it means that I am actively participating and taking part in the preservation of the language and hopefully becoming a vessel to aid in the survival of the Mvskoke language.

I am very interested in learning the Mvskoke language because I realize the importance of knowing your language and culture. When you lose your language or culture you lose your identity or sense of belonging as a people. When I think about how many Mvskoke speakers I know, every one of them is an elder or considerably older than myself. Many young people do not know how to speak their language due to the lack of someone willing to teach them or the lack of desire

or drive to learn the language.

Being Mvskoke, yUdjEha, and Tsalagi is what influences me the most as a student of the Mvskoke. Knowing the history, traditions and languages of my peoples is interesting as well as important to me. The way I see it is, all of these different aspects of the cultures were not preserved by our ancestors just to be forgotten. They were meant to survive with all of us. I will do my best to do my part in preserving the culture and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

We, the Mvskoke speaking members of the Mvskoke Nation should take a lesson from this young man.

We may think that we are doing our children a favor by not teaching them Mvskoke but we never know, they, as this young man may want to learn it. We at the

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program urge you to speak it in your home to your children, grandchildren, nephews, and nieces like it was taught to us. It's nothing to be ashamed of but rather to be encouraged to do.





# INSIDE THE MNN:

## CITIZEN PRESERVES CULTURE IN MODERN WORLD THROUGH CATERING

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## MUSCOGEE (CREEK) LAW STUDENT RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

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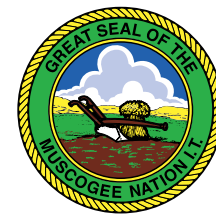


# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

## RIP collects Christmas toys for children of the incarcerated

DEC. 15, 2013  
VOL. 43, ISSUE 24  
"RVFO RAKKO"  
BIG WINTER



### Silent auction funds also help with toy drive

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Fifth Annual Holiday Toy Drive, sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program, set up drop-off bins at several locations to gather Christmas gifts for children of RIP clients.

Debbie Severson, RIP Administrative Assistant, said that the program estimated to provide gifts for about 75 children. Allowed donations included toys for younger children and gift cards for older children. Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise and 4 the Love of the Game, a non-profit Native American youth basketball organization, made donations to the drive.

RIP also auctioned a sculpture created by an inmate. All of the money raised was used to acquire gifts for the children of RIP clients.

Severson expressed that one of the needs for the Toy Drive is to help provide the children with a sense of normalcy.

"I think the children just kind of feel an excitement... We had such a normal Christmas growing up and they don't get that," Severson said.



Mvskoke Media/Jason Salsman

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program is hosting the Fifth Annual Holiday Toy Drive to benefit children of the incarcerated.

Santa Claus will deliver the gifts to the children after they were collected.

RIP assists Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are or have been incarcerated with the goal of keeping the ex-offender out of prison and become a productive member of society.

Joshua Burgess has been a client of the program for two months.

"If it wasn't for them really, I

would be in so much of a bind because I've been gone for almost two years and they've really helped me tremendously," Burgess said.

Since his release, RIP has helped Burgess get a job and life's essentials to provide for his family and turn his life around.

"This program is a big relief because I knew when I got out, I had something to look forward to. If it wasn't for them I don't know

what would happen."

Burgess has four children and said that the Toy Drive would help ease the financial burden of Christmas.

"I have a job but it doesn't pay much... I really can't get them much and little boys want toys," Burgess said.

For more information about MCN RIP call: 918-652-2676 or visit: [www.mcncrip.com](http://www.mcncrip.com).

### Ceremonial ground funding approved during Council regular session

### Multi million dollar appropriation for OneFire Holding Company also addressed

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Nov. 23 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 13-165 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and the City of Eufaula. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-166 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation and Indian Health Services for the employment of Joseph Landers as commissioned personnel for the Okemah Clinic. Rep. Lena Wind sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-167 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a payment in lieu of tax agreement between the MCN on behalf of the Department of Housing and the Creek County Board of County Commissioners. Reps. Dode Barnett and David Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.
- TR 13-168 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a State of Oklahoma Department of Transportation driveway agreement for the construction of a driveway at the new Koweta Food Distribution building. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-169 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between the owner and design-

COUNCIL - 4

## Muscogee (Creek) Nation WIC to receive new facility

### Services remain unchanged during relocation

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Women, Infants and Children Program is temporarily operating at the MCN Housing building while a new facility is being constructed for the program.

The building that previously housed WIC was not meant to be permanent and the structure was demolished due to the problems with the building.

Construction of the new facility started in October with the removal of the old building. The estimated move-in date is Feb. 24, 2014, however, weather and other unforeseen obstacles could delay construction.

The new building will be located on the site of the previous facility at the MCN Tribal



Rendering/1Architecture

The estimated completion for the new Muscogee (Creek) Nation Women Infants and Children Program is February 2014.

Complex in Okmulgee.

According to MCN WIC Vendor Coordinator Katura Bunner, the program is 100 percent federally-funded, but does not receive enough funding to financially support infrastructure needs. NCA 13-142, passed by the MCN National Council Jun. 29, appropriated \$521,663.74 for the new building.

The new building will look similar to other buildings on

the tribal complex. The interior design will help the WIC program be more efficient in providing services.

"All of administration will be in the back behind closed doors and all of services will be in the front to where it can be expedited in a more simple manner," Bunner said.

The WIC program emphasized that the move has not hindered services.

"We are still in operation.

Even though we've been relocated, we are still fully operational," Bunner said.

With the facility change, the program has changed their phone number and will maintain the new phone number once the new building is open. Phone calls to the old phone number will be forwarded to the new line.

For more information about MCN WIC, call the new phone number at: 918-549-2790.





**MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS**

**STAFF**

**MANAGER**  
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**EDITOR**  
STERLING COSPER

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**REPORTER**  
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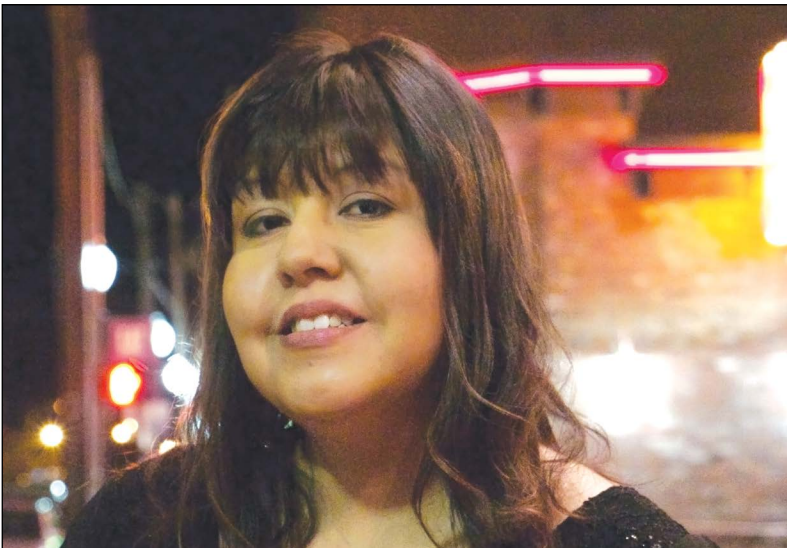
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Native American Journalist Association

MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

## Citizen preserves culture in modern world through catering



MNN/Amanda Rutland  
Tricia Alexander outside the IDL Ballroom Oct. 15, during the Native Fashion for Action event in downtown Tulsa, Okla.

### Alexander discusses her business Autumn Star Catering

Amanda Rutland/MNN

TULSA, Okla. — An intimate crowd gathered Oct. 15 at the IDL Ballroom in downtown Tulsa for the Native Fashion for Action fashion show; an event held to raise money for Oklahoma Council for Indian Education and for the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women. Guests dined on hors d'oeuvres prepared by Muscogee (Creek) caterer Tricia Alexander.

Alexander, Pawnee and Muscogee (Creek), shares her passion for culture through food as founder of Autumn Star Catering. She ventured into entrepreneurship as a way to stay home with her four children and go to school.

"My kids have never spent anytime in daycare... That allowed me to go to school and keep them home with me to cook...I would do lunch caters or I would do evening caters," Alexander said.

She began cooking at an early age by helping family members and elders at stompdances, powwows and sundances. This is where most of her cooking experience came from.

"I would do little things like stirring or cutting stuff," Alexander said.

She is now one of the head

cooks at her family camp, the Kellyville Polecat Ceremonial Ground.

Her favorite food to make is meatpies. She learned from an Osage woman who babysat her as a child.

"A lot of people look up to actresses or singers but I always looked up to all the elders that cooked," Alexander said.

Her inspiration came from people who made dishes that she enjoyed and eating their food was a blessing to her. She pushed herself to be like them.

"I know how it would make me feel when I ate their food; it would make me really good... That's I hope people will feel when they eat my food too," Alexander said.

Her family is supportive, but they are also her biggest critics.

"When my head starts getting big...my husband is there to pop it for me," Alexander said.

She is preparing for the third annual Native American Christmas Market, which is an art market and food show she hosts. It allows people to purchase Native made items for the holiday season. She books musical entertainment and sells traditional foods at the concession area.

The event is free to the public and this year the market was set for Dec. 14 at the Elk's BPO Lodge in Sapulpa, Okla.

For more information on Autumn Star Catering, call Tricia Alexander: 918-852-0017.

## MFSI launches 4-H program

### Program to integrate culture in projects

Jessica McBride/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative announced their chartered 4-H program Nov. 19 with an open house. 4-H is a youth development program that teaches leadership and service through projects in various topics including: cooking, sewing and livestock.

To some, 4-H is only about farming and ranching. However, the program branches out to include a wide range of science and art projects.

"We have kids with cows and steers... But we also sew and do speeches and community service projects; all kinds of things," Oklahoma State University Extension Office Okmulgee County 4-H Representative Deana Powers said.

MFSI 4-H is open to participants eight to 21-years-old. The program is working to develop projects involving Native art, Native foods and archery.

MFSI 4-H Peer Leader Stephanie Berryhill said that

they hope to provide a cultural angle to the projects they offer.

"I think that we can definitely say that probably the majority of projects that we'll be doing won't be available in local established 4-H clubs... There will also be a focus on traditional tribal culture," Berryhill said.

According to Berryhill, the types of projects offered will be left to the creativity and interests of participants.

Berryhill said that MFSI 4-H is looking to work closely with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H and county programs on collaborative projects.

4-H was chosen by MFSI to reach out to youth of the community.

"I really see using 4-H to really more formally organize the things that I've been doing with youth," Berryhill said.

The date of the next meeting has not been set.

To become a part of MFSI 4-H contact: 918-756-5915.

For more information about 4-H visit: [www.4-H.org](http://www.4-H.org).

For more information about MFSI visit: [www.mvskokefood.org](http://www.mvskokefood.org).

## Native Filmmaker brings hobby to life



Submission  
Native writer, director and producer Mark Williams does it all for his company Native Boy Productions.

### Mvskoke Film Festival award winner talks about film industry involvement

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — Writer, director and producer Mark Williams (Choctaw) does it all for his company Native Boy Productions. He also has a job as a landman, which involves research for oil and gas companies, but his passion is filmmaking.

"My dad (Olin Williams) was a real good storyteller, so I feel I got that gift from him," Williams said.

Williams started in the film industry in 2005 and has not looked back ever since. Up until now, he has won awards in the Mvskoke Film Festival and Red Fork Native American Film Festivals.

"I did a short film called 'The Dare,' " Williams said. "It was shot at in my own house just for fun and really kind of a hobby but it found its way into a film festival."

Williams received a call from a representative at the Red Fork Film Festival for his movie, not knowing at the time what film festival he agreed to enter.

"I went up there and it was a packed house," Williams said. "It was a suspense-thriller short film, only 20 minutes long."

Williams did everything for his film, including: shooting, directing and editing. This was his first film and Williams had a low budget but the response he got from the audience at the end of the showing surprised him.

"The film was pretty bad but the response was amazing," he laughed. "Then I thought that this is what I want to do. Growing up I thought that I had this in me...to tell stories."

Williams wanted to put a production on the big screen to make the movie look more professional, which is how Native Boy Productions was born. The name itself came from "The Dare."

"I remember when I put in the intro to 'The Dare' together," Williams said. "I wanted to make it look like a legit movie. So I just started throwing fake names, fake studios and Native Boy Productions was one of them."

Native Boy Productions moniker received a good response and the name stuck.

Williams has not had film training. He learns everything filming, directing and editing.

"I have never been to film

school," Williams said. "So every film that I do, I want to take on new challenges and learn from each one."

Williams also takes notes from the professionals.

"I not only watch the movie but I will also watch the director's commentary for tips and listen to how they explain filming in those certain scenes," Williams said. "I take that and try to use it for my films."

The funding for Williams' films comes from his own pocket. He hopes that his films will gain enough exposure so that his production will be able to get sponsorship.

"I have a lot of ideas in my head and really cool scenes I want to do but I have to stop myself because I cannot afford that," Williams said. "If there is more exposure hopefully someone will see and my productions will get the finance to help with my films."

While some people list Williams as a person in the horror film genre, Williams feels that is not his only cup of tea.

Williams has other films lined up that are not in this particular genre. He is doing a series of documentaries with the Native American Paranormal Project, NAPP. He has a children's comedy series called 'Adventures of Josie the Frybread Kid,' and the last episode will be filmed next spring. He has been asked to produce music videos and other projects.

"I have two more short films that I will be working on," Williams said. "One is a drama and the other is a suspense-thriller. The thriller will be coming out first so I will be casting for that one very soon."

Williams has set a few goals for himself and Native Boy Productions.

"I do not do this for money," Williams said. "I would love to see my films play in theatres like the Warren here in Moore, Okla., and on a major distribution level. Ultimately, that is where I want to be...an A-list director."

Williams advises those who want to get into this type of occupation to do what they love.

"Don't be afraid to fail," Williams said. "If you love it, be passionate about what you are doing. Work, but have fun doing it."

For more information on Native Boy Productions contact Mark Williams by phone at 405-371-9975, email at: [native-boyproductions@yahoo.com](mailto:native-boyproductions@yahoo.com) or on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/nativeboyproductions](http://www.facebook.com/nativeboyproductions).







# NATIONAL COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger addresses the MCN National Council Nov. 23 during a Council regular session.

builder for construction of a new Tribal Transit building. Rep. Eddie LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-170 Authorizing the principal chief to execute agreements between the Nation’s Department of Health and the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Rep. Kara Medina sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-171 Authorizing the Department of Community and Human Services to apply for a federal grant to fund the Nation’s Elderly Nutrition Program. Medina sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-172 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement on behalf of the Nation with Wells Fargo advisers for the purpose of opening and advisory program account with the Nation’s Operation Funds. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which failed 7-9, with Reps. Pete Beaver, Johnnie Greene, David Hill, Robert Hufft, Shirlene Ade, Thomas Yahola, Pearl Thomas, Nichols and LaGrone voting against it.

- TR 13-173 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement on behalf of the Nation with Wells Fargo advisers for the purpose of opening an advisory program account for the deposit of the Nation’s NAHASDA Funds. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which failed 7-9, with Beaver, Greene, Hill, Hufft, LaGrone, Nichols, Thomas, Yahola and Ade voting against it.

- TR 13-174 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a utility easement for the city of Okemah, Okla., to cross tribal land for the purpose of constructing, using and maintaining a sewer line. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- TR 13-175 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an asset purchase agreement for the purchase of real property and office buildings located in Okmulgee, Okla. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-1, with Medina voting against it.

- TR 13-176 Authorizing the principal chief to enter into an amendment to the Nation’s credit facility with Key-Bank National Association and BOKF, NA DBA Bank of Oklahoma that will increase the revolving loan availability

thereunder from \$13 million to \$63 million. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-260 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$142,497 to Glenpool Creek Indian Community for the fiscal year 2014 operating budget. Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-265 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$1,675 to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0, with Greene abstaining.

- NCA 13-269 Authorizing a \$19,900 donation to New Hope Oklahoma. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-1 with Greene voting against it.

- NCA 13-277 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$17,000 to First Indian Baptist Church of Shawnee, Okla. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-278 Authorizing special appropriation of \$2,724.43 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Frank Coachman, Beaver, Nichols, Wind, Greene, Johnson and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-279 Appropriating \$29,400 to the Mound Oversight Committee for maintenance and upkeep of the Mound Building. Rep. Sam Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-280 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$452,884 to 10 Muscogee (Creek) ceremonial grounds to purchase tractors and related equipment. Hill and LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-281 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$1,709.33 to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-2, with Barnett and Hufft voting against it.

- NCA 13-283 Authorizing a \$1,000 donation to the California Muscogee (Creek) Association. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-284 Amending NCA 12-039, a law of the MCN authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Citizenship Board to purchase a database system, as amended by NCA 12-187. Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-2, with

Coachman and LaGrone voting against it.

- NCA 13-286 Amending NCA 13-237, a law of the MCN approving the comprehensive annual budget for the fiscal year 2014 and providing for appropriations. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-1, with Medina voting against it.

- NCA 13-287 Authorizing a \$20,000 donation to Medicine Rock Inc. The legislation required a two-thirds majority vote to pass pursuant to NCA 10-032. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-288 Authorizing a special appropriation of \$2,724.43 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Yahola sponsored the appropriation, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-289 Reaffirming support for the protection of the Muscogee sacred site of Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Ala., and authorizing a special appropriation of \$504,165 for the cost of necessary measures related thereto. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-290 Appropriating \$143,460 for the purpose of providing education for 10 Muscogee (Creek) students per calendar year in the Natural Gas Compression Program at Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee. Medina and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-291 Creating a new MCN Code Annotated Title 18, Section 2-404, entitled “Doctorate Degree Program” to assist Muscogee (Creek) citizens pursuing doctoral degrees under the existing post-graduate program. Beaver and Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

- NCA 13-292 Appropriating \$21,993,801 to One-Fire Holding Company LLC. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which was amended to allot \$7.3 million every year for three years and passed with 10-6, with LaGrone, Nichols, Beaver, Coachman, Hill and Hufft voting against it.

- NCA 13-293 Appropriating \$826,000 to be used toward the purchase of real property and office buildings located in Okmulgee, Okla. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-1, with Medina voting against it. Johnson was absent.

## Smilin’ Vic still smiling after all these years



Smilin’ Vic backed by the Soul Monkeys performs Oct. 6 at the Tulsa State Fair.

### Muscogee (Creek) singer looks back

Gerald Wofford/MNN Contributor

TULSA, Okla. – Victor Gutierrez is a local music legend.

Between Muscogee (Creek) and Yuchi/Euchee people, his musical following is large. From his humble beginnings as a boy who only wanted to play good music, his love and desire has transformed him into performer Smilin’ Vic.

The Muscogee (Creek) and Yuchi musician remembers how great that desire was when he was fifteen-years-old growing up in Tulsa, Okla.

“I remember this real good Yuchi drummer by the name of Art James. He was with this

Vic’s path, as he would play gigs with country and rhythm and blues bands in Texas and Oklahoma.

“We played a lot of Indian bars in the day,” says Vic, “A lot of club owners didn’t want Indians in their bars. It was kind of hard at times but a lot of clubs did give us a chance.”

After playing with such bands as the K-Tells, Oasis, J.T. and the Mudflaps, Vic formed the group that he plays with today, Smilin’ Vic and the Soul Monkeys, in 1993.

Vic says his individual title came from his emphasis on the band to always smile to the audience when performing. The band branded him with that name. The ‘soul monkeys’ originated from a band member’s wife who misunderstood the

**“HE PLAYS SOUL AND BLUES, DANCING MUSIC; HE’S A GOOD REP FOR OUR NATIVE PEOPLE AND I THINK WE NEED TO GIVE HIM MORE EXPOSURE AROUND THE COMMUNITY AND AROUND THE STATE.”**

**–SMILIN’ VIC FAN, LOU CARPENTER**

band called Chuckluck and the Mavericks. My mom and dad took me to this club back in the mid-sixties,” Vic said. “Back then you could get away with bringing a kid into a club as long as he didn’t drink which my mom and dad weren’t going to let me anyway,” he said.

By this time, Vic had already been exposed to musical instruments such as the drums, bongos and guitar. However a strange occurrence took place that evening that shaped Vic’s future.

“During a break in their gig, Art went to the restroom,” recalls Vic, “I went up on stage and sat down at the drums. The band came back on and went into a song as I sat there and started playing,” he said.

James was leaving for military duty soon and this young man’s playing impressed the band so much that they asked him to join after the show.

“I told them, ‘I’m only fifteen-years-old. You’ll have to talk to my Dad about that,’” Vic said.

Vic became a member of the band, after they met with Vic’s father and promised him they would keep Vic out of trouble and his participation would not affect his school performance.

From there, music would carve

name when hearing the original name of Soul Masters.

“Everyone laughed about it and the name kind of just stuck,” says Vic.

The band mainly plays cover music and to the fans.

“As a Native he really reaches us,” fan Lou Carpenter said. “He plays soul and blues, dancing music; he’s a good rep for our Native people and I think we need to give him more exposure around the community and around the state.”

Carpenter joined many fans to see the band Oct. 6 at the Tulsa State Fair.

Ruth Bales enjoys the showmanship of Vic but their friendship is what makes him unique.

“Vic’s been my friend for a very long time, I love Vic, he was with me when my sister Virginia passed away back in 93’. I’m so happy to see him.”

Her three-year old grandson liked the music too as he danced near the stage.

The 63 year-old singer and musician has no plans of retiring.

“As long as God will allow me to, I’m enjoying what I do. That’s all I ever wanted to do, make people laugh, smile, entertain them; that’s what I get out of it,” Vic said.





SATURDAY DECEMBER 21ST

NOON - 8:00PM  
\$10 Match Play

Hot Seat Drawings

One (1) \$100 Free play Electronic ticket drawing will be held December 21st, every half hour beginning 1:30PM and ending at 8:00PM.

Electronic Ticket Drawings

Diamond Club players earn one (1) electronic drawing ticket with every \$75 coin in beginning December 1st through December 21st.  
Beginning at 1:30PM, We will conduct one (1) electronic ticket drawing every 30 minutes where the winner can win up to \$250 cash or entry to the Grand Prize drawing.

Grand Prize Drawings

At 8:00PM, grand prize qualifiers will return to select an envelope.  
WIN UP TO \$5,000!

TUESDAY DECEMBER 31ST

NYE 4:00PM - Midnight  
\$10 Match Play

Diamond Rewards Free Play

Diamond Club members will earn free play for use on 12/31/13 from 4:00PM - Midnight based upon points earned from December 1st - December 29th.

Electronic Ticket Drawings

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One (1) \$1,000 Electronic ticket drawing will be held December 31st, every hour beginning 4:00PM - 11:00PM.

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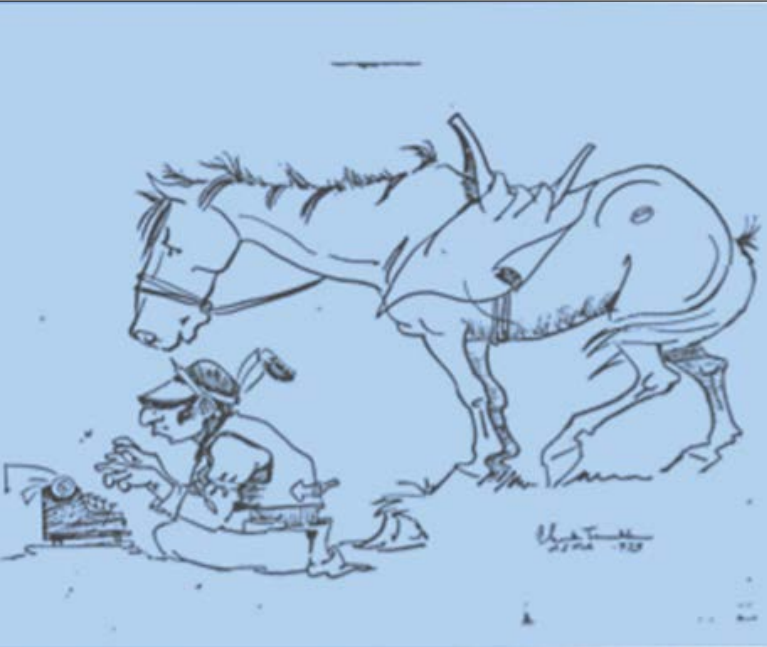


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# Emvpanyv: 'One who tells a story'



## Stupidity, a big turtle and compassion

Gary Fife/MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A couple of incidents at high school football games have put another twist on the mascot name issue this fall.

At a high school football game in Alabama, cheerleaders held up a banner, which read, "Hey Indians, get ready to leave in a Trail of Tears Round 2."

The banner was directed at a rival team named 'Indians.' The school principal apologized on the school's website mentioning that Native Americans suffered "horrific atrocities" on the Trail of Tears.

The same thing happened at a Tennessee high school game, just days later where students held up a sign that said: "Trail of Tears."

**AFVCKE NETTV CAKKO RAKKO  
(MERRY CHRISTMAS)**

**- GARY FIFE/MNN EDITORIAL  
ASSISTANT**

Makes you wonder what these kids are learning—or not learning in these schools. It shore ain't true history.

From the What the H\*\*\* Were They Thinking Department: During the November ceremony on Capitol Hill honoring American Indian Code Talkers were the names of the tribes displayed closed caption style on a monitor behind the reception line.

But...but...inserted between the names of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Choctaw Nation was the word, "Alcoholic."

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives John Boehner (R-Ohio) profusely apologized. A Boehner spokesperson said the transcription company had been given a list of the tribes and that they "deeply regretted" the error.

The excuse was given that the person doing the transcription 'misheard' the word Choctaw.

Since when does "Choctaw" sound like 'alcoholic' and why on earth would you type that into the list honoring these tribes anyway?

Enough of that stuff.

Did anybody watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on TV?

Amidst the marching bands and lavish floats, was a float sponsored by the Oneida Na-

tion of New York.

It was a huge construction featuring the Tree of Peace, growing from the back of Turtle Island. The float symbolized the Oneida story of creation. Photos show it bore a brilliant mix of colors and was the size of a couple of trucks.

Sorry I missed it, but I swear I remember a locv (turtle) that size chasing me out of the Illinois River once. Or least, it looked that big at the time.

It is such a pleasure to see members of the tribe doing so much to help others during this holiday season.

First, it was the folks from the Emergency Management Team serving a meal with the Thursday Night Lights group and then, to see MCN leadership doing the same at the Iron Gate mission.

Then, there's the staff from the Reintegration Program working on their holiday drive and Children's and Family Services people and their 'Angel Tree.'

I don't want to tug on too many heartstrings here, but I have seen the results of such compassion and caring on the children and families that receive such help during the holiday season. I remember seeing kid's eyes light up when they receive a simple present and the look on their parent's faces when their child receives a little something that they themselves couldn't provide. Or see people who have it tough smile when they sit down to a warm meal.

It's at times like this that we all should look around us, be thankful for what we have and see what we can do to help someone who might not have it as nice as we do. There are still plenty of opportunities to make it happen and it's easy to do.

On behalf of our crew here at Mvskoke Media we wish you a Happy Holiday Season... Feliz Navidad...Froliche Weinachten...Joyeaux Noel...Bu-one Feste Natalizie ... Yukpa, Nitak Hollo Chito... Jutdlime pivdluarit ukiortame pivdluaritlo...or

Afvcke Nettv Cakko Rakko

(Merry Christmas)

- Hvtvm Cerecares (I will see you again).

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Story of hope from the MCN Reintegration Program



Submission  
(Left to Right) Muscogee Creek Nation Reintegration Program Manager Tony Fish, RIP client Michael Culley, RIP Case Manager Fredo 'Chubby' Anderson and RIP Case Aide Louis Hicks.

Submission from:  
MCN Reintegration

A few months before he was to be released, Michael Culley found hope and a new start by making contact with Case Manager, Fredo Anderson, aka “Chubby” from the Muscogee Creek Nation Reintegration Program.

Very quiet and reserved, Michael knew what faced him if he was to return to his old haunts in his hometown. He also knew that there was a bridge in Tulsa and underneath it held the memories of his crime and the negative influences that would always welcome him back to the lifestyle he was living, which got him incarcerated 21 years prior.

Since his release in October 2012, Michael felt that if his transition back into society was going to be a success, he needed to meet the criteria set forth in RIP. Being cooperative along with demonstrating accountability and a willingness to work hard was key to Michael receiving support from the program.

Upon his initial release, securing a place to rent was a challenge. While he waited to secure his own rental, the program offered him a hotel room where he stayed for some time. He stayed busy at the hotel, knowing that he needed to remain focused and diligent where the program placed him while awaiting his next step. Waiting was the hardest part for Michael, but he was determined to make it.

He remained to himself and was very quiet during those times at the hotel. When asked about his first months out, Michael revealed, “Chubby held my hand through everything at first.”

He now can smile and say that without a doubt, “I wanted to make Chubby Proud!”

Even though Chubby had secured an apartment for Michael, Michael never had to move into that apartment. It was through support and belief from his dear friends,

Joan and Larry Crabtree, that Michael was able to secure housing in a unique setting with an understanding landlord, and now friend, Carolyn Faith.

According to retired teacher, Joan, “Word of mouth and lots of faith,” is what connected Michael to the one bedroom home he now rents from Carolyn.

Ms. Carolyn praised Michael calling him, “Her best renter –Ever.”

Michael’s very tidy one bedroom trailer is where the RIP team was able to speak to Michael about his journey and how the program was able to help during his transition from being behind bars, to the freedom he now holds dearly.

With funding from the RIP program, Michael was able to have some of his rent and utility deposits paid. Michael also received financial assistance for clothing through RIP. Helping Michael with these resources is one way the program helped him navigate through life during his first few months of freedom.

It was also the kindness of Ms. Carolyn and many donations from friends, strangers and church members, that Michael then had a place to finally call home. He quickly got busy remodeling his trailer inside and out.

Much like his own life, we could see the broken down walls that Michael had fixed and patched, flooring pieced together with tile remnants that were donated and fresh paint, which added warmth and texture to his home.

Michael finds joy in having a purpose around the grounds, which span five acres. He is usually up at dawn wanting to help Ms. Carolyn around the land or he sits on his newly constructed porch, thinking of the next movie he wants to see. Going to movies or attending the meetings at the Community Center are made possible by a Muscogee (Creek) citizen who comes by regularly to show support.

It’s RIP and the people in his life who see the good in Michael and believe that everyone deserves a second chance. People like Joan and Larry

who pray with Michael when his emotions get the best of him from time to time.

RIP believes, “every citizen, even an ex-prisoner is important and is also capable of change.”

RIP Program Manager, Tony Fish says, “It’s looking at people as our number one asset and through these individual investments, like Michael, our Nation becomes stronger and more sovereign.”

When asked, “If you could go back and do anything different, what would it be?” Michael answered, “I wish I would’ve learned to read. I can only read at a third grade level.”

This announcement was made with perfect timing, because the MCN just established a new literacy program. RIP will be looking to get Michael signed up as this will be a free tool, which can help him learn to read.

Michael didn’t want to end the interview without some advice for other inmates who are due to be released.

“Don’t go back to same place you did your bad stuff. Have a support system. Get enrolled into the RIP program and know that the Tribe believes in you.”

As the team was wrapping up, it was noted that Michael could no longer be described as being quiet and reserved. And hope was seen in his eyes as he said, “I wish other guys were like me.”

Case Aide, Louis Hicks summed up our time with Michael by saying, “the program builds the fire, but every now and then the rain comes and starts to put that fire out. But with successes like Michael’s, it rekindles that fire in all of us to keep reaching those who need help.”

To learn more about the MCN Reintegration Program or obtain assistance for a loved one contact the RIP office locally at: 918-652-2676, toll-free at: 1-800-259-1059 or by mail at: 615 E. Corporation St. Henryetta, OK 74437. Visit the program website at: [www.mcncrip.com](http://www.mcncrip.com) and Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/MCNRiP](http://www.facebook.com/MCNRiP).

Indian Fall Festival returns with tradition



MNN/Kyla McKown

The Indian Fall Festival Nov. 1-2 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation RiverWalk in Jenks featured: Native-made art, three Native-bands a frybread contest and more.

MNBE, Tourism and Recreation host second annual event

Kyla McKown/MNN Reporter

JENKS, Okla. — The Indian Fall Festival Nov. 1-2 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation RiverWalk in Jenks featured: Native-made art, three Native-bands, a frybread contest and more.

This is the second year for the Indian Fall Festival, which is an effort by the Nation and MCN Principal Chief George Tiger to bring back what used to be a major event.

The Native-Made Art Festival was free and open to all federally recognized tribal artists who wanted to display their work.

whole family to come out and enjoy it. We made it larger.”

With MNBE and the partnership with MCN Tourism and Recreation, the tribe was able to put together an event for everyone while also supporting Native artists.

Will Lowe, MCN Tourism and Recreation Director, believes the RiverWalk was the ideal location.

“We have a lot of talented artists in the state,” Lowe said. “And we don’t want to tell them they don’t have the means to make it out to Indian art markets in Santé Fe. So we use RiverWalk as the great venue it is for them to display their art for free.”

Lowe expressed the significance of that event holding the first cultural dance on the RiverWalk property.

Moore believes it was impor-

**“WE HAVE A LOT OF TALENTED ARTISTS IN THE STATE AND WE DON’T WANT TO TELL THEM THEY DON’T HAVE THE MEANS TO MAKE IT OUT TO INDIAN ART MARKETS IN SANTÉ FE. SO WE USE RIVERWALK AS THE GREAT VENUE IT IS FOR THEM TO DISPLAY THEIR ART FOR FREE.”**

**—MCN TOURISM AND RECREATION DIRECTOR WILLIAM LOWE**

There were more than 40 artists representing 10 tribes.

One of those, was Leo Perez, a Vietnam veteran and vender at the event.

Perez appreciated the opportunity to display his inventory while supporting the community.

“I’m still learning a lot,” Perez said. “It’s just amazing to see the unity of the people coming together as one nation and each showing support to each other.”

Perez had heard about the event through Molly Moore, Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Marketing Coordinator.

Moore said this used to be almost a tradition but sponsorships just weren’t there.

“I asked tourism if they’d want to make it larger with their art festival,” Moore said. “We added music and a frybread contest, just to make it more for the

tant to have the fellowship outside of the MCN property and to perform cultural acts.

“We weren’t performing for other people; we were doing it for us,” Moore said.

Although there were traditional and cultural lessons to be learned at the event, Lowe said the event was solely a celebration.

“Even though it was the Indian Fall Festival, the intent was to celebrate all Native culture for Native American Month,” Lowe said. “We didn’t emphasize the education. It was more arts, bands and children around.”

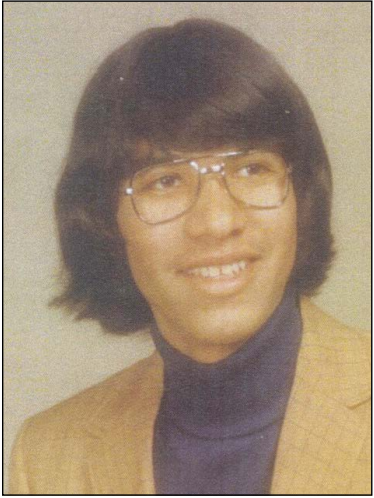
Lowe said the MNBE was able to pursue sponsors for the event and some departments really stepped up to help out.

Both were happy with the turnout but plan to make the event a large, one-day event next year.



# OBITUARIES

## MONROE ASBURY



EUFULA, Okla. — To family and friends he was known as ‘Sonny.’

His journey started as a young man born to Virginia Sulphur-Asbury and the late Monroe Asbury Sr. July 30, 1956. He was the third child starting from Brizdeane Sulphur-Brooks, Mona Asbury-Mcintosh, "Sonny", Gina Asbury-Haskew and Gilla Asbury Americanhorse. As a young man, Pastor Raymond Beaver baptized Sonny as a Christian in the Okfuskee Indian Church. Growing up in Eufaula, Okla., where greatness abounds the youth to be the very best that he or she could be. Examples led by Monroe Asbury Sr., Selmon brothers, and J.C. Watts. Sonny a graduate from Eufaula High School in 1974 went on to Tulsa where he became the best welder, mastering all certifications. As Sonny became older, he enjoyed treasure hunting, rock n’ roll music and was an avid Oklahoma Sooner fan.

Loved by family and friends, we will miss Sonny ‘the lone wolf,’ as he journeys home to be with the creator.

"The great father above a shepherd chief is. We are his, and with him we want not. He throws out to us a rope and the name of the rope is Love. And he draws us to where the grass is green and the waters not dangerous, and we eat and lie down and are satisfied. Sometimes our hearts are very weak and fall down, but he lifts us up again and draws us into a good road.

His name is wonderful. Sometimes, it may be very soon, it may be a long, long time-he will draw us into a valley. It is dark there, but we'll not be afraid. For it is in between those mountains that the Shepherd Chief will meet us and the hunger that we have in our hearts all through this life will be satisfied. He gives us a staff to lean upon. He spreads a table before us with all kinds of food."

What I tell is true. I lie not. These roads that are away ahead will stay with us through this life and after. Afterwards, we will go to live in the big tepee and sit down with the Shepherd Chief forever.

## LENNAH DANIELS

GARLAND, Texas — Lennah Ruth Daniels, a resident of Garland, passed away Nov. 21, 2013 in Garland at the age of 77. Lennah was born Sept. 28, 1936 in the Ryal, Okla., community to Charlie Taylor and Fannie Mitchell Taylor.

Lennah grew up in the Ryal area where she attended school. She later transferred to the Se-

quoyah Indian School. Lennah worked for Texas Instruments as a circuit board technician for approximately 15 years before retiring. She was also a member of the Pecan Grove Methodist Church. Lennah loved to sew and her family admires many items from her craft. She loved watching softball games and is known by many as an avid reader. Most of all, she loved time spent in the company of her family.

She is preceded in death by: her mother and father and a grandson, Mark Tracy Campbell.

She is survived by: daughters, Roberta Sheets of Dallas, Lois Daniels of Garland, and Sondra Hopper and husband Terry of Edwood, Texas; 11 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson on the way.

A funeral service for Lennah was scheduled Nov. 27, 2013 at Integrity Chapel in Henryetta with Rev. Malcolm Tiger officiating. Interment followed immediately at Taylor Family Cemetery, near Ryal School under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Pallbearers are: Anthony Daniels, Tommy Daniels, Timothy Sheets, Hunter Hopper, Chase Hopper, and Kadin Davis. Honorary pallbearers will be Roman Harjo, Richmond Leitha, Leroy McDermott, Roley Fry, Frank Harjo, Josh Harjo and Richmond Tiger.

## EDDIE FISH

TULSA, Okla. — Eddie Robert Fish, Sr., a longtime resident of rural Henryetta, Okla., passed away Nov. 21, 2013 in Tulsa at the age of 84. Eddie was born Jan. 5, 1929 to John Frazier Fish and Julia Marie Shade Fish.

Eddie grew up in the Pharoah, Okla., area and attended Pharoah Public School. At age 16, Eddie joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. He joined in 1947 and served two-and-a-half years before his honorable discharge in 1950. Eddie faithfully served in the Panama Canal. After his military service, Eddie returned to Oklahoma and attended Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, where he studied cabinet making. He later worked construction as he built Pizza Huts for Mike Kelly Construction in Tulsa. After working for Kelly Construction, Eddie worked for Bama Pie for approximately 13 years as a carpenter. He retired in 1981.

Eddie married the love of his life, Dorothy Dean James Fish. From that marriage, they were blessed with 5 children.

Eddie is survived by: his son, Eddie Robert Fish, Jr. and wife Rita of Beaver of Oklahoma; four daughters, Elizabeth Ann Taylor and husband Larry of Clearview, Okla., Loretta Sue Parks and husband Kenneth of Sand Springs, Okla., Darlene Hames of Okmulgee, Okla., and Feebee Elfar of Henryetta; 17 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren and seven step-grandchildren; brother, Calvin Fish and wife Janice of Arkansas; sisters, Melissa Hill of Okemah, Okla., Maggie Dearman and husband Mike of Okemah and Priscilla Waybourn of Okemah

along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other extended family and many good friends.

He is preceded in death by: his mother and father; wife, Dorothy Fish; sisters, Savannah Fish, Lorena Capehart and Oma Marie Davis; brothers, Barney Fish, Doug Fish and Little Frazier Fish; grandson, Larry Brian Taylor Jr.; great-grandson, Michael Ethan Hames and a great-granddaughter, Baby Great-house.

A celebration of Eddie's life was held Nov. 23, 2013 at Integrity Chapel in Henryetta with Rev. Dale Litsey. Interment followed immediately at the Fish Family Cemetery, west of Henryetta under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Pallbearers are: Eddie's grandsons: Eddy Mitchell Fish, Bobby Clay Fish, Michael Joe Hames Jr., Terry Clint Parks, Randal Ray Parks and M.J. Elfar.

## MILLIE SCOTT

WETUMKA, Okla. — Born Nov. 8, 1939 to Louis Hobia and Agnes Wesley Hobia , Mille Jean Hobia-Scott was third child of 10 children.

\She was born on the old home place of John and Polly Wesley, which was known as Wesley Corner in Okfuskee County but she was raised in the Greasy Creek area. She always recalled good memories of Greasy Creek, with her brothers and sisters as a young child growing up.

Her journey on earth was finished on Nov. 17, 2013 at 9 a.m. when she returned to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

She attended Eufaula Boarding School, Seneca Indian School and went on to graduate from Chilocco Boarding School in 1958.

She continued her education and graduated from Seminole Junior College in Seminole, Okla., with an associate degree. She worked under the Johnson-O'Malley program as tutor in the Wetumka School District.

After the death of her mother in 1963, she became a mother figure to all her younger brothers and sisters.

Many times she took them into her home, guiding them and taking care of them when needed. She was a foster parent to many Indian children as well.

She was of the Wotko clan and an active matrilineal member with Kialegee Tribal Town. When James Wesley was elected Kialegee Mekko, the top 5 put in office were James Wesley, Betty Holtulka, Tom Barnes, Pauline Green and herself. She is the last of the original top 5.

One of the most admirable deeds her family will always remember is the birthday cards she sent out to them every year with \$1 and a quote which would read, "I love you more than sausage and gravy, I love you like red beans and rice," among many more quotes. She never forgot those who were incarcerated. She expressed how she would love to have seen the faces of the children when they opened the envelope. Her comment was, "I did this out of love."

# TRIBAL EVENTS

## IHS Zuni Health Center Achieves Baby Friendly Status

IHS/Media Release

ZUNI, N.M. — The Indian Health Service's Zuni Comprehensive Community Health Center is the sixth IHS facility and the first hospital in New Mexico to be certified as Baby-Friendly. Baby-Friendly hospitals offer new mothers the information, confidence, and skills they need to initiate and continue breastfeeding their babies. These designations were sought as part of the IHS Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. This initiative is part of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move! in Indian Country" campaign dedicated to solving childhood obesity and reducing diabetes rates within a generation. It promotes breastfeeding to reduce the risk that children will develop obesity and diabetes in the future. The IHS campaign aims to certify all IHS obstetric facilities as Baby-Friendly. It also illustrates the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' dedication to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding.

The Zuni Comprehensive Community Health Center completed the designation process in November and has a 95 percent breastfeeding initiation rate. As part of the Baby-Friendly process, hospital staff members are trained to support breastfeeding and teach new mothers how to nurse.

For more information contact: 303-443-3593, newsroom@ihs.gov or visit the IHS website at: www.ihs.gov.

## Conservation program deadline set

USDA/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Land users wanting financial assistance for conservation work in 2014 will want to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program by Dec. 20 according to Ron Goedecke, District Conservationist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"EQIP is the most complete and comprehensive conservation program for Okmulgee County" Goedecke added.

EQIP is an agreement where conservational practices are set up on a short-term (usually 1-3 years) schedule with the producer to carry out. The completed items are then paid for in part and based on a cost schedule for each conservation practice.

"All agreements are developed from the producer's conservation plan," Goedecke said.

The conservation plan will identify natural resource issues such as soil erosion, plant health, soil health, water quality, etc. Practices such as ponds, brush control, overseeding legumes and fencing are some typical conservation practices used to address natural resource issues. If you are interested in making application for EQIP you may contact the USDA, NRCS or the Okmulgee County Conservation District at 719 East 8th St. in Okmulgee or by phone at: 918-756-0850.

## CMCA GATHERING SET FOR DEC. 28

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A holiday gathering of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association is set for Dec. 28 at Sherman Indian High School, 9010 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, CA from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please enter from the Jackson Street gate. The main dish will be provided but additional potluck dishes are needed and welcomed. Little gifts will be distributed for the children. This is a new location for CMCA and we hope to see friends from Palm Springs and San Diego.

For more information contact George Windes, Yorba Linda: 714-970-6468.

## CLAREMORE DENTAL CLINIC TO CHANGE SIGN IN TIME

CLAREMORE, Okla. — Starting Jan. 2, 2014, the Claremore Indian Hospital Dental Clinic will be changing the sign in time for walk-in patients to 7:30-9:30 a.m., Monday-Friday.

All patients who participate in the Claremore Indian Hospital Diabetes Program are encouraged to receive a consultation from the clinic for the opportunity to receive dentures.

## MCN SENIOR SERVICES MEETING SET FOR JAN. 8, 2014

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The next Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services meeting is set for Jan. 8, 2014 at the MCN Council Chambers on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

## CAN MAKING CLASSES SET TO BEGIN JAN. 20, 2014

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Cultural Preservation is taking names for a new series of classes on how to make stomp-dance cans. The next open class is set for Jan. 20, 2014 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. in the Cultural Preservation Library. Classes are limited to eight people and tools and materials will be provided.

Interested Creek citizens should call Johnnie Wesley at: 918-732-7733.

## MCN SRO December schedule

MCN SRO/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for December.

Dec. 17 - Tax Commission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

Dec. 18 - National Council 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dec. 24-25 - Creek Nation Complex closed

Dec. 27 - WIC clinic 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dec. 31 - Creek Nation Complex closed

MCN SRO: 405-452-1100

## THANK YOU

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Middle Creek #2 Church would like to thank Reps. Mark Randolph, Robert Hufft and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for sponsoring the financial support, which helped make our Harvest Festival a success.

God bless you.